

150 Years

St. Stanislaus

1854 – 2004



St. Stanislaus College

An Illustrated History
1854 - 2004

Celebrating 150 Years Of Quality Education

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

FOREWORD

St. Stanislaus College, the oldest existing establishment of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in America, boasts a long and colorful history dating back to 1854. Blessed with talented leaders and generous benefactors, St. Stanislaus grew from its humble beginnings into an educational institution of great renown on the Gulf Coast. But it was not an easy task. Major challenges overcome by the Brothers, lay faculty, and their students include epidemics, Civil War, financial struggles, hurricanes, and fire.

This special volume commemorating the 150th anniversary captures some of the highlights of St. Stanislaus's fascinating history and the indomitable spirit that permeates it. In general the book follows a chronological order, but at times the story is presented in various vignettes that look backward or jump forward to develop more fully a particular topic of interest. Not all of the 528 Brothers and hundreds of faculty members who have taught thousands of students at St. Stanislaus, nor the many alumni and benefactors who have played a major role in the development the school can be singled out by name in such a short presentation. Surely each one of them has made important contributions, and I hope that I have captured enough of the flavor of each epoch to bring back happy memories for all. An overview, rather than a complete chronicle, this anniversary edition focuses on some of the personalities involved in the major events of the life of the school as well as the development of its campus and curriculum over the past 150 years.

Brother Xavier Werneth, S. C.
Editor

Table of Contents

Humble Beginnings 1854 - 1870 . . . . . page 3

Glowing Reputation 1870 - 1903 . . . . . page 14

Bold Adaptations 1903 - 1923 . . . . . page 30

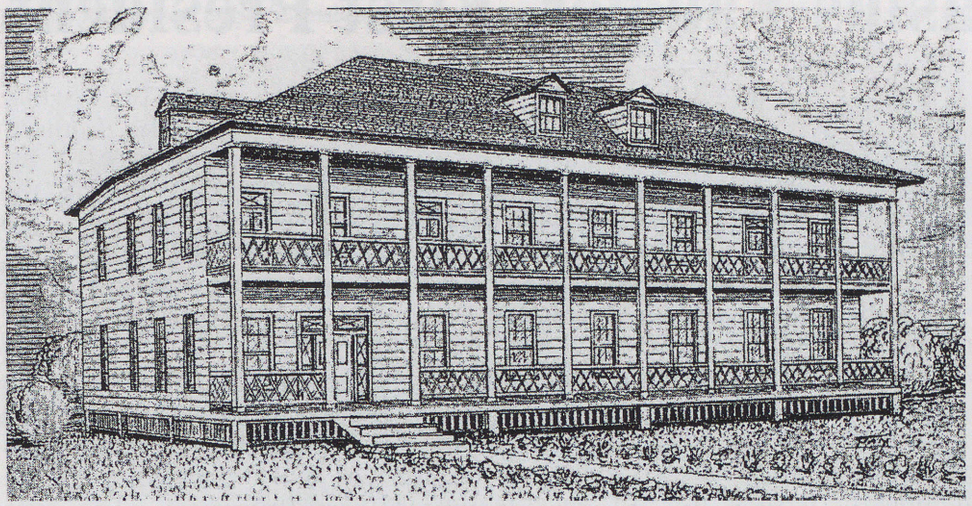
School of Character 1923 - 1948 . . . . . page 44

Capital Improvements 1948 - 1978 . . . . . page 70

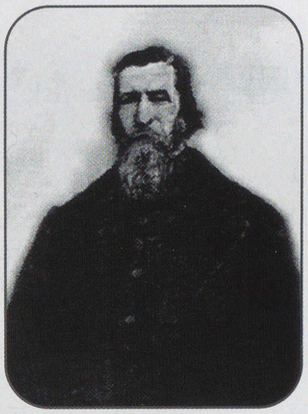
Sharing the Charism 1978 - 1996 . . . . . page 92

New Millennium 1996 - 2004 . . . . . page 112

St. Stanislaus Academy as designed and constructed by Brother Leo Maligne in 1855



Fr. Stanislaus Buteux



Fr. Stanislaus Buteux, True Benefactor

As pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Father Stanislaus Buteux invited the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Mobile, Alabama, to come to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, a small Gulf Coast city officially named Shieldsboro until 1875.

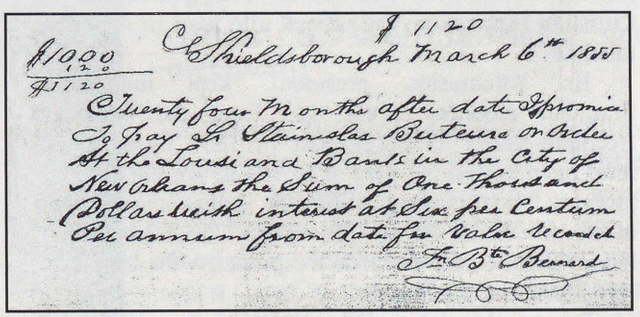
Father Buteux had built a classroom for boys behind the Church in 1852 and had engaged four Christian Brothers to teach there. But in September of 1853, three of the four died from yellow fever, and the other withdrew. In June of 1854, Father Buteux wholeheartedly welcomed three Brothers of the Sacred Heart: Br. Basile Vamable, a 21-year old French missionary who was director; Br. Aloysius, a former Canadian Christian brother who was a novice; and another French missionary, Br. Leo Maligne.

The parish paid Br. Aloysius and Br. Basile $18 a month for teaching about 30 local boys; Br. Leo, the cook and carpenter, received no salary. In accordance with a written contract, the Brothers collected fees from a few resident students who lived with them in the presbytery. It was a rough start financially and otherwise. The young, inexperienced director failed to inspire confidence, and Br. Aloysius, who was unstable, soon left religious life. Br. Joseph Deimir, another novice, replaced him.

In the fall of 1854, Father Buteux traveled to France to ask Br. Polycarp Gondre, the superior general, for more Brothers to staff a boarding school. Fr. Buteux agreed to pay the passage for four Brothers and pledged to donate half of the cost of the property if the Brothers built. He returned in January of 1855 with four Brothers.

On February 24, 1855, the Brothers bought a strip of land 140 feet wide between Bookter and Union Streets. Bounded by the Bay of St. Louis, it stretched back 40 arpents, about 1.5 miles, almost to what is now Highway 90. Robert Clannon of New Orleans sold the Brothers the land for $4,000. Br. Alphonse (John-Baptiste Bernard), the provincial superior, signed a deed of trust, mortgaging the land back to Mr. Clannon, agreeing to pay him $1,000, plus 6% interest, every six months for two years.

With the help of Br. Lucius Ramond and a few local workers, Br. Leo designed and constructed a modest wooden building at a cost of $3,800. It served as a school and residence combined. The Brothers named their new school St. Stanislaus Academy after the patron saint of youth and in recognition of Father Stanislaus Buteux, a true benefactor whose help and encouragement enabled the Brothers to establish a simple school that would soon grow from its humble beginnings into the most renowned educational institution along the Gulf Coast.



$1120

$1000 120 $1120 Shieldsborough March 6th 1855

Twenty four Months after date I promise to pay Fr Stanislas Buteux or Order at the Louisiana Bank in the City of New Orleans the Sum of One Thousand Dollars with interest at Six per Centum Per annum from date for Value received

Fr B[te] Bernard

One of four promissory notes for $1,000 each whereby Father Buteux loaned the Brothers $4,000 at 6% interest to finance the building of St. Stanislaus Academy.

Br. Athanasius Faugier, First President

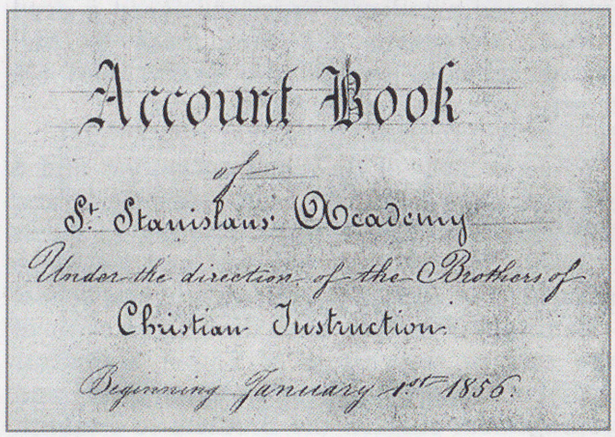


With rare qualities of heart and mind, Br. Athanasius was a vigorous administrator and great character builder. As the first president of St. Stanislaus Academy, he served a six-year term from 1856 to 1861.

Providentially, Br. Athanasius Faugier, one of the original missionaries to America in 1847, took charge of the Brothers' community in Shieldsboro in late December of 1855. Br. Basile Vamable, the former director, had left during the Christmas vacation when his vows expired, taking a job teaching in Pointe Coupee, Louisiana. Br. Athanasius, already an outstanding school administrator at the age of 33, became the first president of St. Stanislaus Academy.

At the beginning of the school session in January 1856, the Brothers and students occupied the new school. The building was 80 feet long, 30 feet wide, and two and one-half stories high. The first floor consisted of three classrooms and a parlor, the second a dormitory and infirmary. The attic served for living quarters. The simple but pleasing structure had galleries on the front and back. With the four French Brothers brought to the United States by Fr. Buteux, who helped teach them English, the staff totaled seven Brothers.

Br. Athanasius advertised in both French and English newspapers in New Orleans and Mobile. Reputation of the school spread, and before long boarders from the sugar plantations in Louisiana flocked to the Brothers' school in Shieldsboro, which served as a summer haven for the wealthy of New Orleans who enjoyed its fine beaches. The school prospered, and by 1859 there were 13 Brothers at St. Stanislaus. But life was still difficult and several Brothers left the community, including three of the first four Brothers there as well as Br. Lucius Ramon, who had helped put up the first building.


Account Book
of
St. Stanislaus Academy
Under the direction of the Brothers of
Christian Instruction
Beginning January 1st 1856

The title page of the 1856 Book of Accounts for St. Stanislaus Academy above indicates the legal name for the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Brothers of Christian Instruction, the official title used in America until 1874.

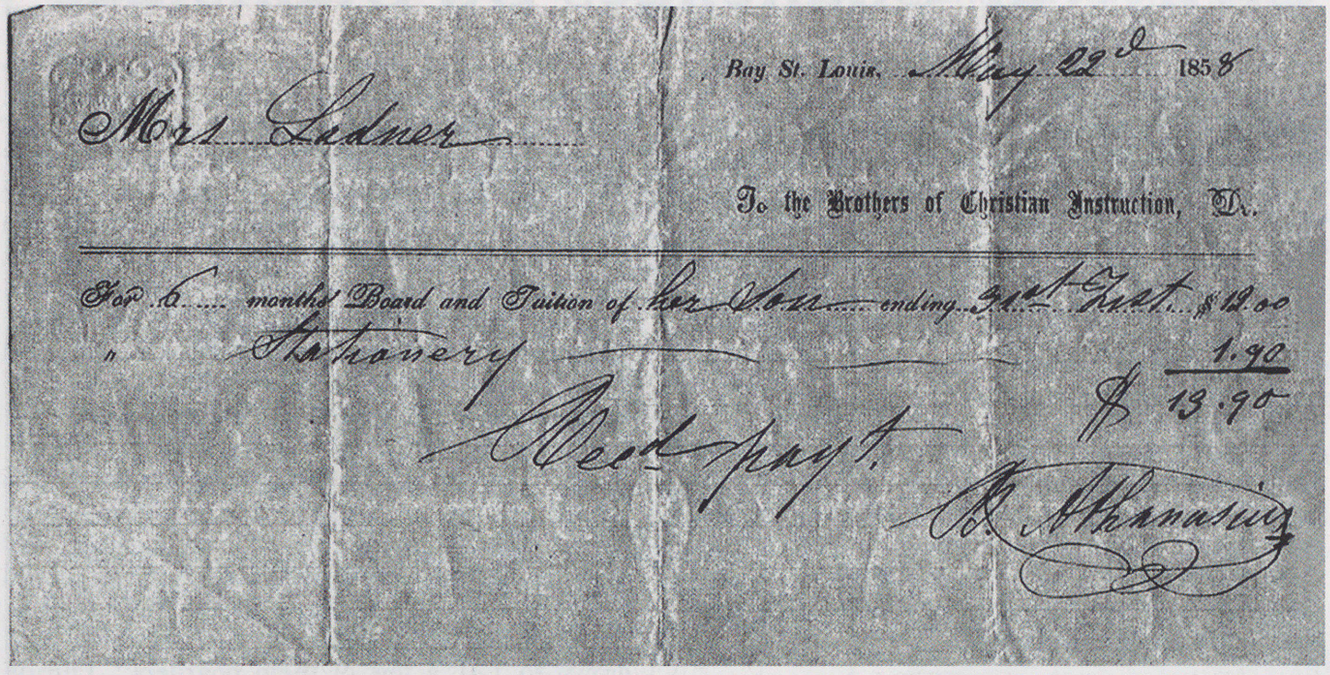
Br. Athanasius, president, kept meticulous financial records. Page 143 from the Book of Accounts shows that on October 18, 1858, he made the final payment on the debt of $5,994.45 for the original property and building at Bay St. Louis, the popular name for Shieldsboro. Including the $2,000 that Father Buteux paid towards the property, the total cost was just under $8,000.

Payments were made through the provincial headquarters in Mobile, and until 1864 Br. Alphonse Bernard, provincial, held the title to the property.

Undaunted, Br. Athanasius constructed another two and a half-story frame building in 1859 to the west of the first one. It contained two dining rooms, a community room, a chapel, and a dormitory as living quarters for the Brothers--again in the attic. This building served for a century until the late 1950s when it was replaced by Centennial Hall (now the Brothers' residence) on that same location. With the new building in 1859, St. Stanislaus Academy conducted three classes to accommodate the increased enrollment.

Before the end of this term in July 1861, Br. Athanasius, a fine financial manager, had paid off all debts, leaving St. Stanislaus in excellent shape with a steady enrollment. He stamped the school with his vision and firmly set it on a course for sure success. In 1864, he led the school again when the faculty moved to New Orleans to teach its students who were blockaded during the Civil War. Br. Athanasius then went on to serve as provincial superior for the Brothers in America for 35 years, from 1865 to 1900.

Receipt signed by Br. Athanasius on May 22, 1858, and issued to Mrs. Ladner shows that she paid $2 a month for tuition for her son at St. Stanislaus Academy during the first session of 1858. She also paid $1.90 for copy books.



Bay St. Louis. May 22d 1858

Mrs Ladner

To the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Dr.

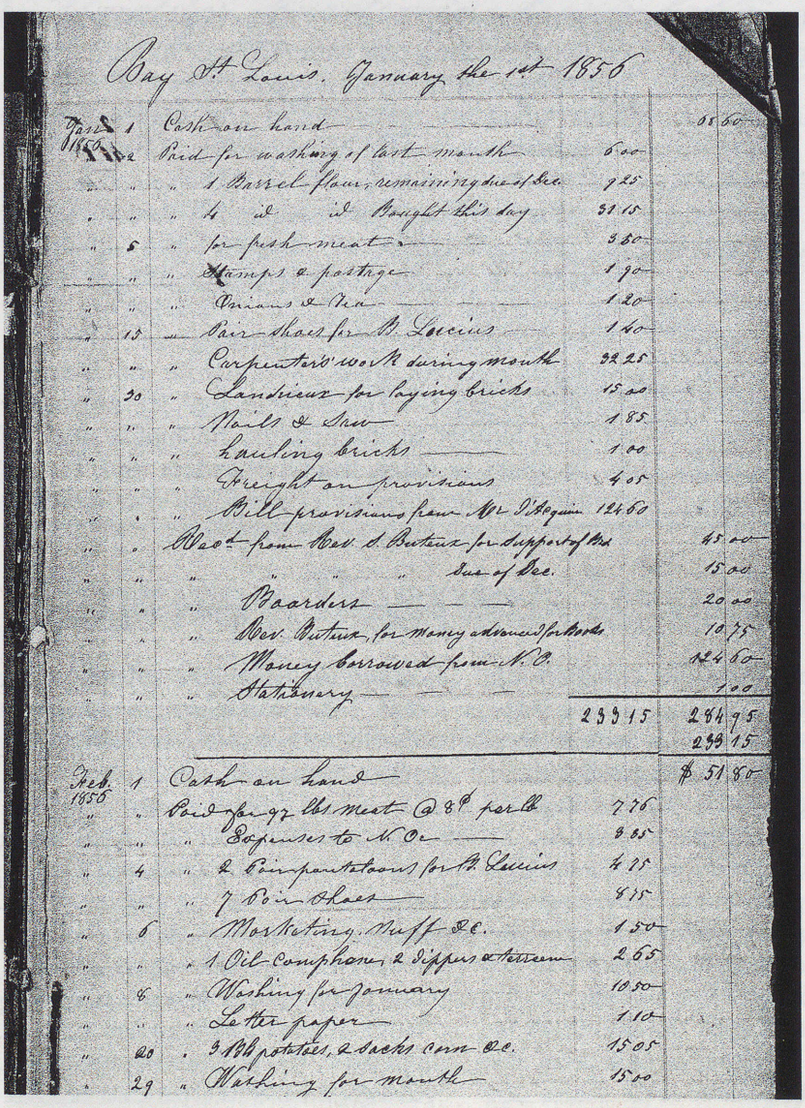
For 6 months Board and Tuition of her Son ending 31st Inst. $12.00

" Stationery 1.90

$ 13.90

Rec'd pay't.

Br. Athanasius



Bay St. Louis. January the 1st 1856

Jany 1		Cash on hand		51 80
1856	2	Paid for washing of last month	6 00	
"	"	" 1 Barrel flour, remaining dues of Dec.	9 25	
"	"	" 4 " " Bought this day	31 15	
"	5	" for fresh meat	3 80	
"	"	" Stamps & postage	1 90	
"	"	" Onions & Tea	1 20	
"	15	" Pair shoes for B. Lucius	1 40	
"	"	" Carpenter's work during month	32 25	
"	30	" Landrieux for laying bricks	15 00	
"	"	" Nails & Saw	1 85	
"	"	" Loading bricks	1 00	
"	"	" Freight on provisions	4 05	
"	"	" Bill provisions from Mr D'Acquin	124 60	
"	"	Rec'd from Rev. F. Buteux for support of Bro		45 00
"	"	" " " " Son of Dec.		15 00
"	"	" Boarders		20 00
"	"	" Rev. Buteux for Money advanced for books		10 75
"	"	" Money borrowed from N.O.		124 60
"	"	" Stationery		1 00
			299 15	284 95
				299 15
Feb.	1	Cash on hand		$ 51 80
1856	"	Paid for 92 lbs Meat @ 8¢ per lb	7 36	
"	"	" Expenses to N. Or	3 85	
"	4	" 2 Pair pantaloons for B. Lucius	4 75	
"	"	" 1 Pair Shoes	1 15	
"	6	" Marketing, Muff &c.	1 50	
"	"	" 1 Oil Compliance 2 Dippers & Strainer	2 65	
"	8	" Washing for January	10 50	
"	"	" Letter paper	1 10	
"	20	" 3 Bbls potatoes, 2 sacks corn &c.	15 05	
"	29	" Washing for month	15 00	

Glimpse into Daily Life

The first page the Book of Accounts for January and February 1856 provides a good glimpse into the daily life of the Brothers at St. Stanislaus. Entries such as $1.40 for shoes and $4.75 for two pairs of pantaloons for Br. Lucius add a personal note. Laundry service cost $10.50 for January and $15 for Feb.

Also, there was still construction going on with outlays for nails and saws as well as carpentry work and bricklaying done by Landrieux.

In January Father Buteux paid $45, the final payment of $15 a month per teacher, and the Brothers collected $20 in fees from boarders. They also borrowed $124.60 in New Orleans to pay D'Acquin for provisions.

The Account Book also records trips taken to New Orleans. While most general provisions were purchased from D'Acquin, some food items such as flour, tea, onions, corn, and potatoes were purchased separately. The school paid only eight cents per pound for 92 pounds of meat in February 1856.

Civil War Challenges St. Stanislaus

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, St. Stanislaus began to suffer its first major setback. For a while, Br. Florimond Pauble, who succeeded Br. Athanasius as president, managed to keep things on track. Because the Brothers were consecrated religious men, they were exempt from military service. With a certificate to that effect, they could circulate freely and generally had no trouble traveling to secure provisions for the school.

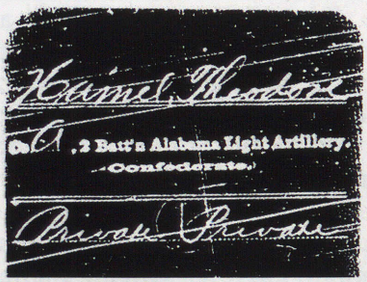
Even in 1863 after Union forces had blockaded the Gulf Coast and taken control of New Orleans, the Brothers were able to go by boat from Bay St. Louis to Fort Pike at the entrance of Lake Pontchartrain. The Union soldiers were friendly and helpful to the Brothers, allowing them to buy provisions and carry mail back and forth.

But travel for students was difficult. Those from Louisiana could not get to school in Mississippi, and the number of boarders dropped dramatically. Br. Athanasius again came to the rescue, turning a crisis into an opportunity. With the help of Father Anthony Durier, pastor of Annunciation Parish in New Orleans, he acquired a house for the Brothers next to the church.

Br. Athanasius left Bay St. Louis for New Orleans with nine Brothers from the St. Stanislaus teaching faculty on December 14, 1863, leaving Br. Florimond, director at the Bay, with three Brothers to take care of the property and teach about thirty boarders and day scholars. In several letters written in French to Br. Alphonse, provincial superior, and to members of his family in France, Br. Athanasius gave a vivid account of the Brothers' experiences. First they were detained at Fort Pike for three days due to bad weather. There he witnessed a troop of African American soldiers that made up part of the Union forces. He commented on how well they marched and drilled, handling their weapons much more adeptly than the other troops. He then detailed how he was able to lease a large building six blocks from the church to use as a school.

On January 4, the Brothers opened the 1864 school session in New Orleans with only three boys. By the second week, the number had grown to thirteen and by the end of the month to twenty-five. By the start of the 1865 session, the number of students at Annunciation had grown to 120, a few of them boarders. Tuition ranged from two to six dollars, depending on the classes; boarding fees were $25 per month. Ever industrious, the Brothers tore down a shed to have wood to make desks and tables for the students.

After the War, the Brothers left Annunciation in New Orleans to reopen the boarding department at St. Stanislaus on July 1, 1865. But realizing the need for education in New Orleans, the Brothers returned in 1869 to establish a school there. Meanwhile, on January 1, 1866, when Br. Odon Celle, age 30, took over as president of St. Stanislaus, he had a staff of 14 Brothers to teach the 98 boarders and 75 day students. The number of students rose quickly, and the school once again prospered.



Theodore Hamel's muster card in the National Archives in Washington D. C. shows that he served in the Confederate Army until he was taken prisoner of war by Union soldiers May 15, 1865, at Citronelle, Alabama.

Br. Hugh Hamel, A Feisty War Veteran

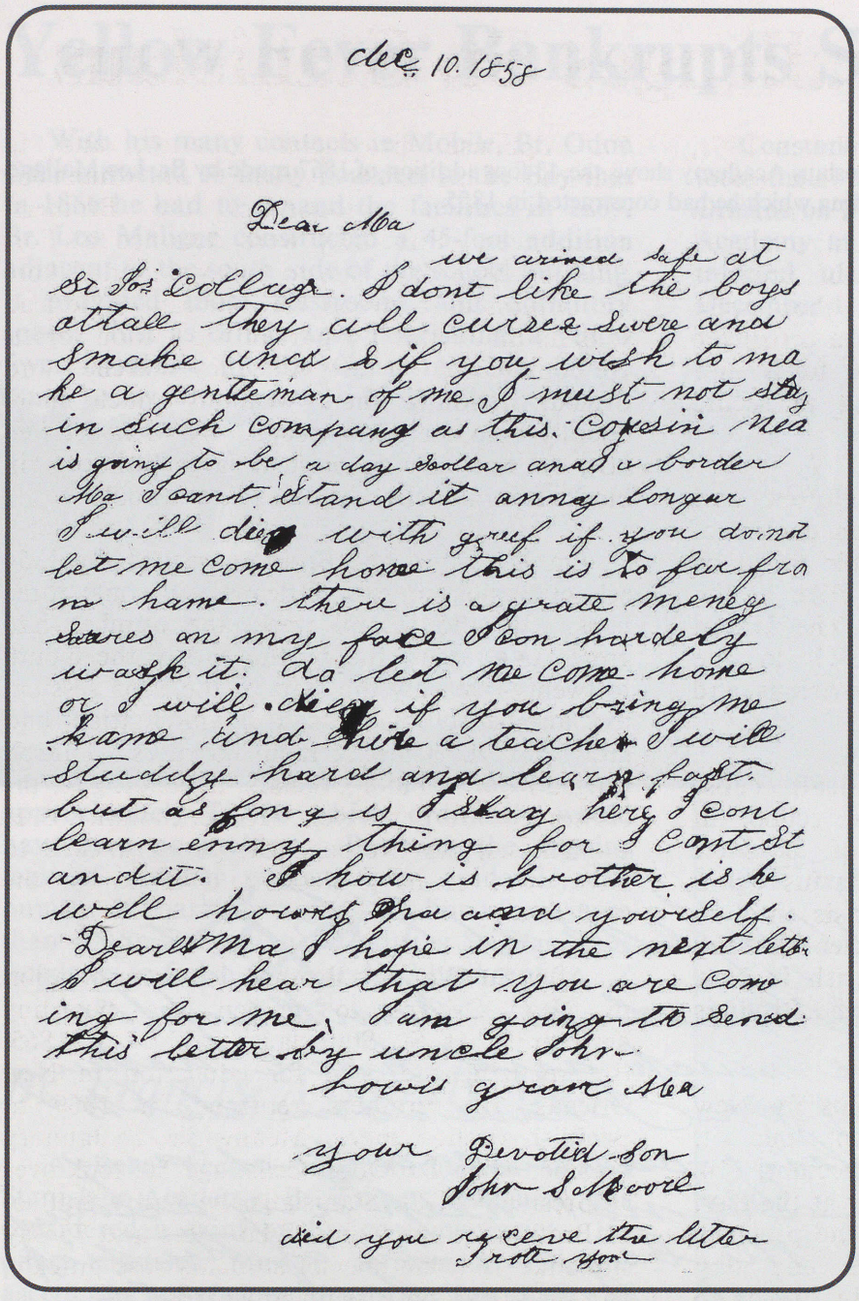
For most Brothers, the Civil War brought a variety of hardships such as doing without some certain amenities. But for Brother Hugh Hamel (1836-1908), it meant much more.

During the Civil War, Br. Hugh was transferred from Mobile to Bardstown, KY, due to his outspoken sympathy for the North. On the way there in 1862, he was stopped in Chattanooga and conscripted for three years into the Confederate Army in spite of his loud protests that he was born in Canada.

In 1863 private Theodore Hamel, Br. Hugh, was transferred to Camp Forney near Mobile where he served in the Alabama Light Artillery until his company surrendered in May 1865. After three years in the Confederate Army, he rejoined the Brothers and served 32 years at St. Stanislaus.

A small, nervous, energetic man, Br. Hugh worked as a janitor at the Bay, making beds, sweeping floors, and carrying water for the wash basins in the dormitories. If students or Brothers left clothes or shoes on the gallery, he sometimes swept them away.

A feisty character, he was forever fighting battles of policy. Always beaten, but never conquered, Br. Hugh mellowed with age, becoming a man of faith, piety, and meekness.



dec. 10. 1858

Dear Ma

we arived safe at St Jos College. I dont like the boys atall they all curses Swere and smake and if you wish to ma be a gentleman of me I must not stay in such company as this. Coussin Nea is going to be a day dollar and a border Ma I cant stand it anney longer I will die with greif if you dont let me come home this is to far fra ma hame. there is a grate meney staves on my face I can hardely wash it. do let me come home or I will die if you bring me hame and hire a teacher I will studdy hard and learn fast. but as long as I stay here I cant learn enny thing for I cant set and it. how is brother is he well how are Pa and yourself. Dear Ma I hope in the next lett I will hear that you are coming for me, I am going to send this letter by uncle John

how is grandma Nea

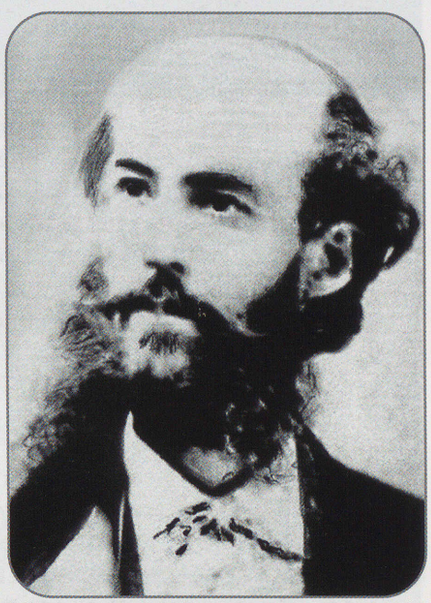
your Devoted Son
John S Moore

did you receve the litter I rote you

John Moore, Typical Homesick Student

In a worn, leather trunk in the attic of an old uptown New Orleans home, John Moore's daughter Gennie found a packet of old letters. Among them was a letter that her father had written to his mother when he was nine years old.

At the time, December of 1858, young John was a homesick boarder at St. Stanislaus Academy, trying to persuade his mother to let him return home. The scrawled letter, full of blotches and smears, along with misspelled words and grammatical errors, only convinced his mother that her son sorely needed the education and discipline offered by the Brothers.



Runaway Boarder Joins Confederate Army

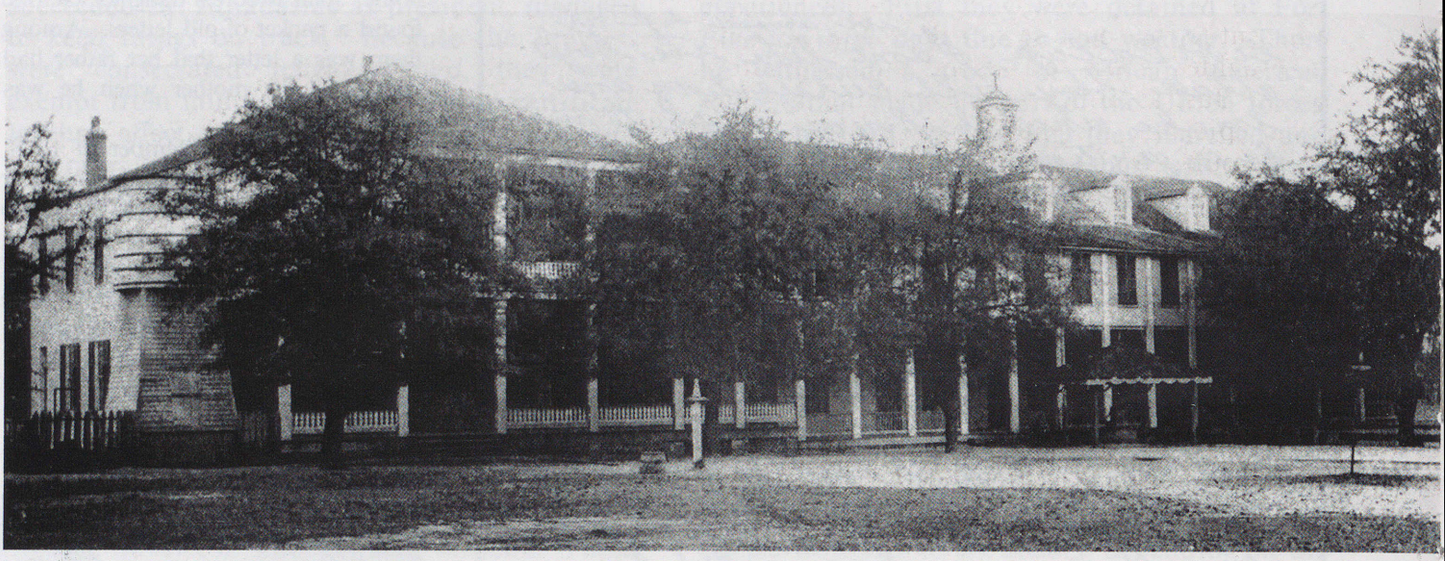
John Moore, the nine year old boarder who wrote the above letter in 1858, ran away from St. Stanislaus in 1861 to join the Confederate Army. His fascinating story, as told by his daughter Gennie, was featured in *The Times Picayune* of New Orleans, dated October 17, 1976.

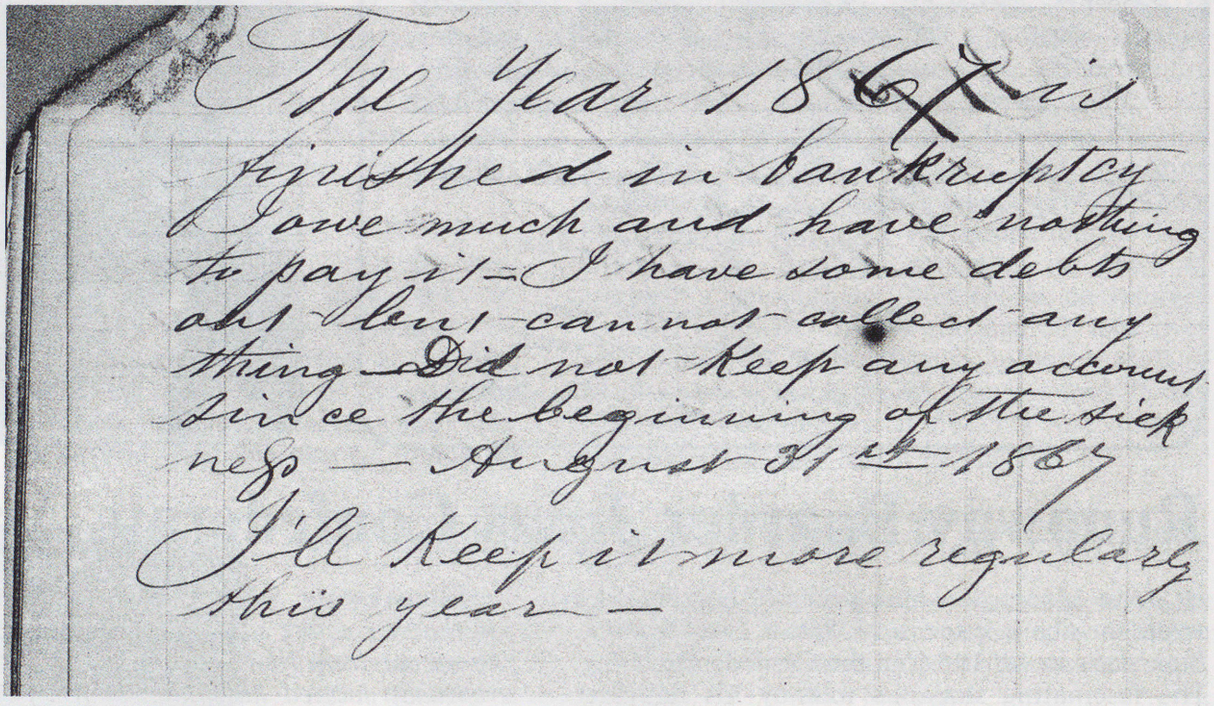
"When the Civil War broke out a few years later, a great many of the students left St. Stanislaus and joined the Confederate Army," Gennie said. *"My father was only 12 in 1861, but he was very tall for his age-nearly six feet-and so he ran off, too, and somehow got accepted, probably because of his height and, well, perhaps he fibbed a little about his age too.*

"At any rate, when Grandma Matilda found out that her young son had run off with the army, she set out from New Orleans in her carriage and eventually located his camp, which was not far from the school. There she found John, in all the dignity of his 12 years, standing sentry duty, and she promptly put him into the carriage and brought him home."

John's mother returned him to St. Stanislaus for another year, and he turned out to be a well-dignified man of character. His daughter later donated the precious letter printed above along with his portrait to the school's archives.

The oldest known existing photo of St. Stanislaus Academy shows the 45-foot addition of 1867 made by Br. Leo Maligne to the south side of the original school building which he had constructed in 1855.





Entry dated August 31, 1867, in Br. Odon Celle's Account Book shows the financial impact of yellow fever upon on the school: *"The Year 1867 is finished in bankruptcy. I owe much and have nothing to pay it. I have some debts out but cannot collect anything. Did not keep any account since the beginning of the sickness."* The dreaded scourge affected not just the Brothers, three of whom died at the Bay in September, but their students and their parents as well. Thus, not only did many tuitions go unpaid, but enrollment dropped by half.

Yellow Fever Bankrupts School in 1867

With his many contacts in Mobile, Br. Odon Celle attracted so many boarders to the Bay that in 1866 he had to expand the facilities in 1867. Br. Leo Maligne constructed a 45-foot addition adjacent to the south side of the school building. It provided more classrooms and dormitory space. Just as things were flourishing, a yellow fever epidemic hit the Coast in 1867, killing three young Brothers on the St. Stanislaus staff in September that year: Br. Orans Girma, age 34; Br. Clotaire Chanal, age 23; and Br. Francis Habougit, age 34.

An energetic and successful president, Br. Odon was taxed to the limits of his strength, but he did not give up. He added more buildings to accommodate the needs of the student body. After a two-story Science and Music Hall was completed near the refectory building, he made music and science part of the required curriculum. These improvements cost approximately $8,000 which ordinarily would have been no problem. But with the ongoing fear of another yellow fever epidemic, the number of boarding students declined from more than 100 to fewer than 50, causing St. Stanislaus Academy to finish the year 1867 bankrupt.

Br. Francis, A Saintly Man

A linen keeper and infirmarian at St. Stanislaus Academy, Br. Francis Habougit, was considered a saint by his contemporaries. He often chastised himself, a form of religious asceticism not uncommon to the spirituality of the 19th century. After his death a light chain with wire points that he used for physical penance was found wrapped around his body.

Amazingly, Br. Francis had predicted the date of his death and had written in his spiritual notebook on March, 1867, *"I am going to die on September 22, 1867."* While making beds in the infirmary for Brothers sick with yellow fever at Bay St. Louis, he prepared an extra bed for himself, explaining that it would be his deathbed. Indeed it was. Br. Francis lived and died as a saint.

He was buried in the newly created Brothers' Cemetery in Bay St. Louis where his two confreres had been buried just weeks before him.

Constant stress and struggle against sickness took their toll on Br. Odon. While in New Orleans on business as president of St. Stanislaus Academy as well as to see a doctor about an infected ulcer, Br. Odon died suddenly on December 1, 1868, at the age of 32.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

1854 First three Brothers arrive in June

1855 First property purchased February 24 for $4,000
St. Stanislaus Academy constructed for $3,800

1856 St. Stanislaus Academy begins first session in January
Br. Athanasius, president, leads staff of seven Brothers

1858 Debt on building, property paid

1859 Additional buildings constructed

1861 Civil War affects lives of Brothers, students

1864 Blockade causes Brothers to teach students in New Orleans

1865 St. Stanislaus boarding department reopens after War in July with 103 boarders, 50 day scholars, 16 Brothers

1867 Three Brothers die of yellow fever
Brothers' cemetery begun at Bay
Addition made to main building
Science, Music Hall constructed

1868 St. Stanislaus grants strip of land 200 feet by 225 feet for railroad
Brother Odon, president, dies suddenly, December 1st

1869 Railroad obtains school property for depot after court case in Harrison County
Brothers open Free Day School

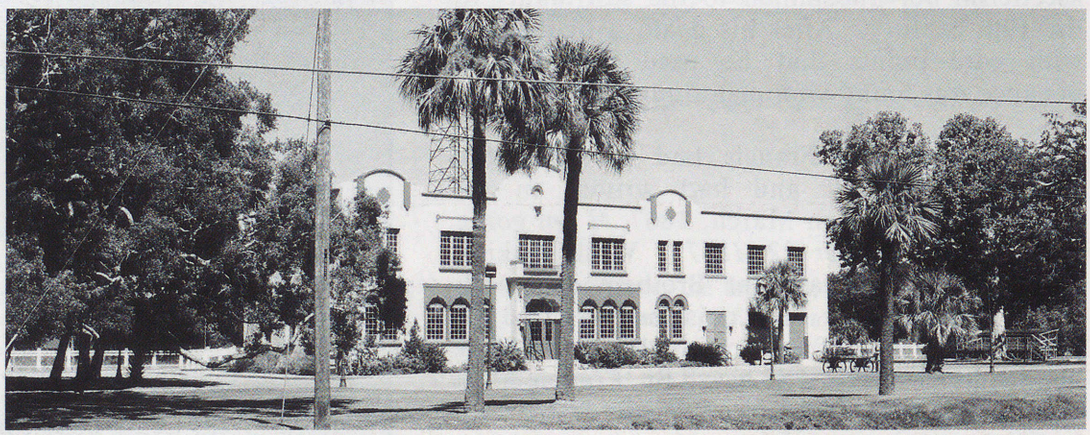
The Railroads: Rocky Relationships

Relationships between the officials of St. Stanislaus and railroad companies have been somewhat rocky over the years, the typical good news-bad news story. In 1868 the Brothers at St. Stanislaus heartily welcomed the plan for the New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga Railroad to lay tracks from New Orleans to Mobile, passing through Shieldsboro to cross the Bay of St. Louis. They knew the railroad would help their sagging enrollment as well as the city's economy. So they were readily willing to grant the railroad company the strip of land, 200 by 225 feet, for tracks cutting through their property, as decided by the Circuit Court in Harrison County on April 20, 1868.

The Brothers were not at all happy, however, when the company later went back to court to demand use of additional school lands for a depot. Judge W. M. Hancock of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court in Harrison County ruled in favor of the Railroad in April 1869. He ordered the College to forfeit a parcel of land 650 feet wide by 210 feet long for *"right of way and Depot purposes."* Judge Hancock further decreed that *"said Company pay said Brothers of St. Stanislaus College thirty-eight dollars and eighty-five cents."* Thus, the Railroad acquired more than three acres of valuable College property for a mere $12.42 per acre. More than 125 years later, in 1995, CSX Transportation, which had acquired the railroad from L&N in the 1980s, sold this same land, not including the Depot building on it, to the City for $18,000 an acre.

On the positive side, the Depot assured that passenger trains would stop near the College which was beneficial for boarding students. In 1878 the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bought the line, and the Brothers developed friendly relationships with that company. In 1904 L&N officials cooperated with the College to connect it with the Depot by means of a special loop to give students in telegraphy a hands-on opportunity. That same year, L&N offered special monthly fares ranging from $2 to $5 to allow students within 5 to 50 miles of the College to matriculate daily. Often the L&N ran extra excursion trains from New Orleans to Bay St. Louis for special events at St. Stanislaus. This was especially true in the 1920s as the school's athletic programs flourished, thanks in large part to the railroads which helped interscholastic sports by providing travel to away games.

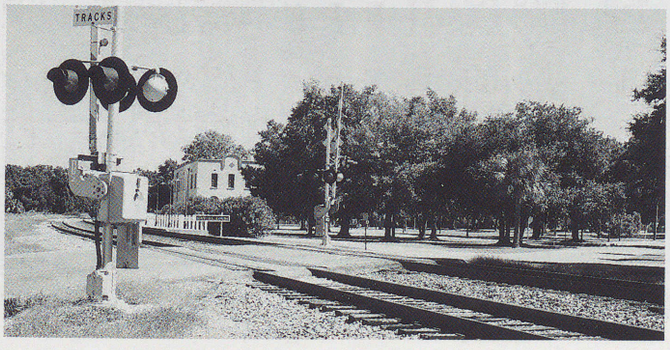
Thus, students and Brothers more readily put up with the noise of train whistles of the many freight trains which woke them several times during the night, especially on hot summer nights when all the windows were opened before the era of air-conditioning. But with speeding freight trains sometimes hauling dangerous chemicals across the campus, school officials have continually been concerned about students' safety. And the crossing at Bookter Street which students had to use daily to reach the school stadium and athletic fields presented a real danger for many years. In 1999 after persistent pressure from Br. Donnan Berry, SSC president, CSX installed crossing bars and lights.



After the City purchased the above land from CSX to use for civic events, it renovated the depot which had been built in 1928 to replace the original one which burned. This 2001 view from the corner of Blaze Ave. and Bookter St. shows the grounds that were part of St. Stanislaus College campus until a court granted them in 1869 to the railroad for use as a right of way and a depot.

The invitation below which was mailed by the College to Mr. L. A. DeMontluzin in February 1893 included a card noting that the L & N Railroad would run a special excursion from New Orleans to Bay St. Louis for the special celebration sponsored by St. Stanislaus commemorating the Episcopal consecration of Pope Leo XIII.



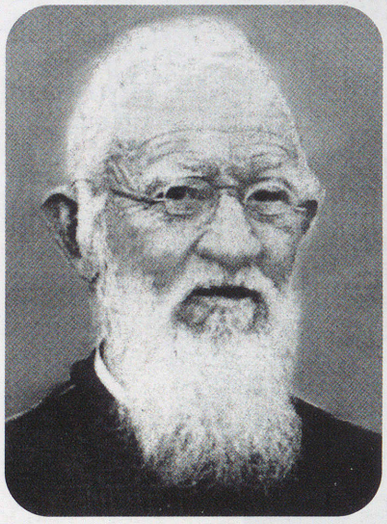


RR Crossing Made Safer

Brother Donnan Berry, president of St. Stanislaus from 1994 to 1998, crusaded successfully to have CSX correct the dangerous railroad crossing at Bookter Street. A good number of school buses and hundreds of student athletes cross the tracks daily to get back and forth between the school and the athletic fields where they practice and play.

Br. Florent Favier, teacher at the Back School for 18 years, poses with some of his students in 1941. *Front:* Nolan Kingston, Ralph Hille, Van Fayard, Dickie Curran, Rene Cuevas, Albert Garcis, Joseph Garcia, and A. C. Carver. *Middle:* Evan Ladner, Jack Arnold, Henry Prevost, Torres LeBrun, Charles Bouis, and Andrew Giveans. *Back:* Rogers Reinike, Alcee Giveans, Bernie Piazza, Harold Saucier, Raymond Drew, Raymond Benvenutti, and Bobby Fayard.





Br. Stephen O'Hanlon



Br. Stephen with some of his students in 1911 outside the Back School

Br. Stephen, Lovable Legend of Rip's University

Br. Stephen O'Hanlon, a Brooklyn native, joined the Brothers in 1863 in Bardstown, Kentucky, where he took care of the Brothers' farm at the orphanage during the Civil War.

In 1882 the age of 34, Br. Stephen began teaching at the Brothers' Free School in Bay St. Louis. There he proved himself a very successful teacher. During 26 years at the Sorbonne, as the Free School was sometimes called, Br. Stephen exerted a tremendous influence on hundreds of young men, many destined to become community leaders.

Strong, tall, wiry, and agile, Br. Stephen sported a long, snow-white beard which earned him the nicknames Uncle Sam and Rip Van Winkle. Of a genial disposition, he became a lovable grandfather figure to many of his young charges without compromising his strict demeanor in the classroom.

In recognition of his education of young men of Bay St. Louis at "Rip's University," Br. Stephen was inducted into the St. Stanislaus Hall of Fame in 1975.

Brothers Open Free Day School, 1869

From the start, as their Account Book shows, the Brothers educated a significant number of students at St. Stanislaus for free or reduced tuition. In 1869, much to the satisfaction of their good friend Father Henry LeDuc, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf and chaplain to the school, the Brothers opened a new one-story wood frame building with two rooms to accommodate 60 grade school boys of local families that could not afford tuition at the main school on Front Street. Located back beyond the main school's playgrounds on Bookter St., the school was often called the Back School. The Brothers at St. Stanislaus taught at this school until 1966.

St. Joseph's Novitiate

Brothers of the Sacred Heart

Metuchen, N. J.

April 22,1927.

Dear Brother Peter,

There is no agreement,either oral or written,between the Church at the Bay and the College with respect to the "Back School". That school was begun by the Brothers during the time of Father LeDuc and has just been kept up ever since.

I do not know if it was begun at the request of Father LeDuc or just through the charity of the Brothers.

With sincerest best wishes, I remain

Yours in Corde Jesu.

Bro. Isidore

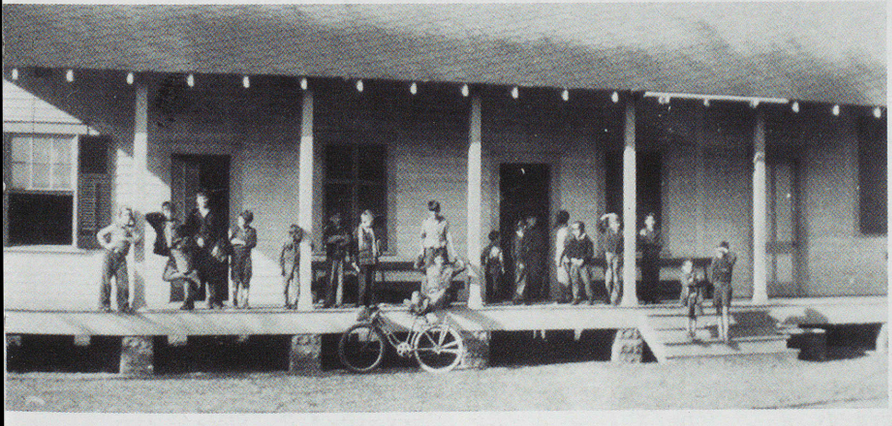
P.S. The "Sorbonne" was opened in the year of 1869-1870 by Brother Gontran (Mondat) who was Director,teacher,faculty,etc.,all combined.

Br. Isidore Balmadier, St. Stanislaus president, provincial, and province historian, credited Br. Gontran Mondat as the Free Day School's founder in 1869. But Br. Gontran moved to join the first faculty of St. Aloysius in New Orleans in September of 1869, and Br. Elphege Veyssieres took over the Sorbonne, the name the Brothers affectionately gave the Free Day School. After Br. Elphege quit religious life in 1872, causing some stir about town, Br. Louis-Joseph Larre stabilized the free school, teaching there for seven years until 1878 when yellow fever caused the school to close for two years.

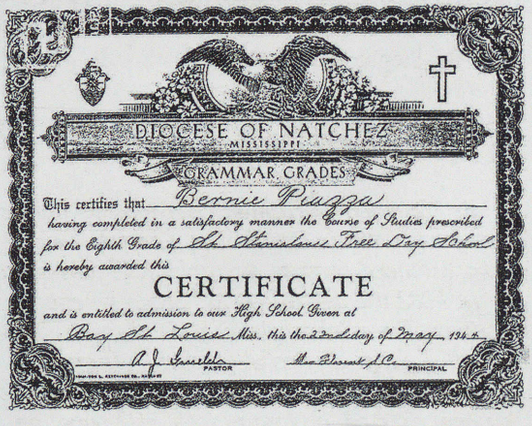
Br. Alphonse Journy reopened the Free Day School in 1880 with 60 students in Grades 1-8. Each of eight rows in the classroom represented a separate grade. In 1882 Br. Stephen O'Hanlon took the school in charge, teaching at the Free Day School for 26 years. Enrollment increased to 80 boys, and Br. Achilles Rodolosse assisted Br. Stephen, teaching at the Free Day School for 20 years until 1905. More boys enrolled until the school was overcrowded in 1884 with 102. From 1885 into the 1890s, students who could afford to paid 5 cents a day.

Between 1914-1951, Br. Raymond Noonan served at the Day School for 17 years and Br. Florent Favier for 18 years. After closing in 1951, the Day School, refurbished by the parish, reopened in 1952 with Grades 4-6 only. It was attended by boarders and local students who were enrolled at SSC and who paid a modest tuition. Grade 4 was dropped in 1960, and the school closed permanently in 1966 when the 5th and 6th Graders moved to the main campus.

Many community and civic leaders over the years proudly boasted of their humble beginnings at the Brothers' Back School which Hurricane Camille destroyed in 1969.



St. Stanislaus Free Day School, called the Back School, in the 1940s



DIOCESE OF NATCHEZ

MISSISSIPPI

GRAMMAR GRADES

This certifies that Bernie Piazza having completed in a satisfactory manner the Course of Studies prescribed for the Eighth Grade of St. Stanislaus Free Day School is hereby awarded this

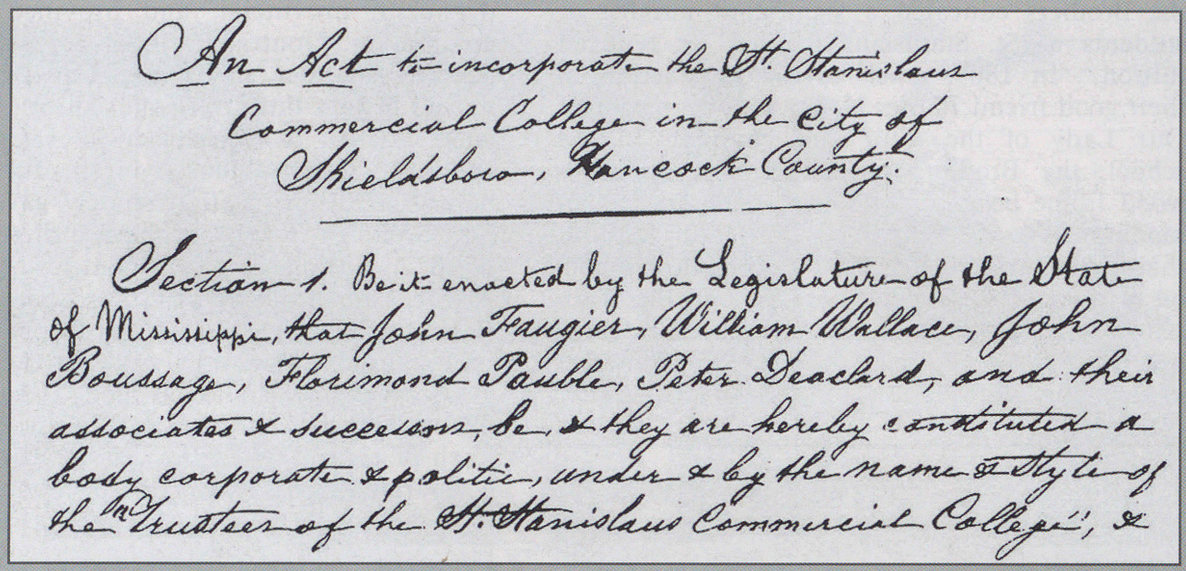
CERTIFICATE

and is entitled to admission to our High School Given at Bay St. Louis Miss. this the 22nd day of May 194-

A. J. Sawelda PASTOR — Mrs. Florent Favier PRINCIPAL

Bernie Piazza's 1944 Free Day School diploma.

Only one of the trustees of the newly incorporated St. Stanislaus Commercial College in 1870 was stationed at the school. Rather they were scattered throughout the province: the provincial superior Br. Athanasius, John Faugier, in Mobile; Br. Patrick, William Wallace, in Mobile; Br. David, John Boussage ,in Bardstown; Br. Florimond Pauble, president of the college; and Br. Felician, Peter Deaclard, in Natchez. These men, except for Br. Patrick, constituted the first provincial council, elected in 1869.



An Act to incorporate the St. Stanislaus Commercial College in the City of Shieldsboro, Hancock County.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, that John Faugier, William Wallace, John Boussage, Florimond Pauble, Peter Deaclard, and their associates & successors, be & they are hereby constituted a body corporate & politic, under & by the name & style of the "Trustees of the St. Stanislaus Commercial College", &

St. Stanislaus Confers College Degrees

The Mississippi State Legislature passed an act on July 11, 1870, to incorporate St. Stanislaus Commercial College in the city of Shieldsboro, Hancock County. The same act empowered the board of trustees of the college *"to prescribe the course of studies and to grant diplomas and degrees under such rules and regulations as they shall prescribe."*

By 1870 St. Stanislaus College had developed a two-track curriculum with emphasis on math, science, and music. Besides the required religious subjects, the Commercial Course consisted of composition, rhetoric, elocution, higher arithmetic, algebra, geometry, geography, ancient and modern history, bookkeeping, business, and French grammar. The Superior Course included higher business subjects, plus business law, mechanical drawing, trigonometry, surveying, navigation, astronomy, calculus, physics, and chemistry, with Spanish and German offered as electives.

Music, which has been taught at St. Stanislaus from the very beginning as an elective, was given even more emphasis. A music department was established and its curriculum included both vocal and instrumental music, as well as participation in a brass band. Account books show that as early as 1857 the school purchased its first piano. Another was bought in 1860, and almost every year additional instruments were acquired. By 1868, the school had hired a band director.

Br. Florimond Pauble, the only president of St. Stanislaus to serve four times for a total of 14 years, promoted the College energetically. The school's account books show that it had always invested in advertisements in regional newspapers such as *The Bay St. Louis Gazette, The Propagator, The Bee, The Pilot, The Mobile Sunday Times, The Mobile Weekly Times, The New Orleans Times, The Crescent Monthly,* and *The New Orleans Tribune*. In addition to printing the prospectus in large newspaper ads, Br. Florimond published a complete yearly college catalog, fully illustrated. Annual tuition in 1870 was $250 for 85 resident students, plus $10 a week for summer vacation on campus. The 50 day students paid from $1 to $3 a month tuition, depending on their level of courses.

Legal incorporation allowed College trustees to buy, sell, and own property. So on September 16, 1870, Br. Athanasius, provincial superior and past president of St. Stanislaus, wrote in his journal, *"St. Stanislaus College, having been chartered by the State Legislature under the title of Trustees of St. Stanislaus Com'l College, I have this day transferred the property which was in my name to the trustees of said College."*

Property Transferred to Trustees

Soon after St. Stanislaus became incorporated as a legal entity in 1870, Br. Athanasius, provincial superior of the Brothers, transferred title of the school property to the board of trustees of the Commercial College in Shieldsborough for $500.

Title to the property had been in Br. Athanasius's name, legally known as John Faugier, since June 4, 1867, when the outgoing provincial Br. Alphonse, legally known as John Baptist Bernard, transferred it to him as his successor. Br. Athanasius, who was president of St. Stanislaus Academy at the time, paid the province $5,000 for the property. As seen on the left, the deed was duly recorded in Book C:272-73 in Hancock County.

Each time the St. Stanislaus property was transferred, care was taken to describe it legally as the same tract of land fronting the Bay, 140 feet wide and 40 arpents deep, that was purchased from Robert Clannon on February 24, 1855, as recorded in Book B:410.

J. B. Bernard

To { Deed

John Faugier

Filed for record
June 4 1867 — &
Recorded in Book
C Pages 272 & 273
W. Brayton
Clerk

to have & to hold unto said Trustees
of St. Stanislaus Commercial College &
their Successors & assigns forever.
Witness my hand & Seal this
16th day of September, A. D. 1870.

J. Faugier (seal)

The State of Mississippi
Hancock County ss. This day personally appeared before
me Benjamin Jones clerk of the Circuit Court of said County,
John Faugier, who acknowledged that he signed, sealed, and
delivered, the foregoing Deed on the day and year therein
written as his act and Deed.

Given under my hand and Seal of said
Court this 16th day of September A.D. 1870

B. Jones clk



John Faugier
To
Deed
The Commercial Colledge
of Shields borough
Mississippi

On September 16, 1870, Brother Athanasius (John Faugier), provincial, transferred the deed to the St. Stanislaus property in Shieldsborough to the Board of Trustees of St. Stanislaus Commercial College for $500. (Deed Book H:406, Hancock County, Miss.)

Press Coverage Helps Build Reputation

St. Stanislaus Commercial College, as the Brothers' school became known even before its incorporation in 1870, had already built a solid reputation as an outstanding educational institution. The college produced exceptional graduating classes and received excellent press coverage. For example, *The New Orleans Times* of Sunday, November 28, 1869, published a very detailed and flattering article on the graduation exercises of St. Stanislaus the previous week. (It should be noted that until 1870, the school year ended in November with vacation in December.)

Indeed, the newspaper journalist quipped that he covered the graduation exercises at St. Stanislaus with *"a grim determination to undergo the serious ordeal"* with stoicism. But he noted that the intense spirit shown by professors and students alike pleasantly surprised him.

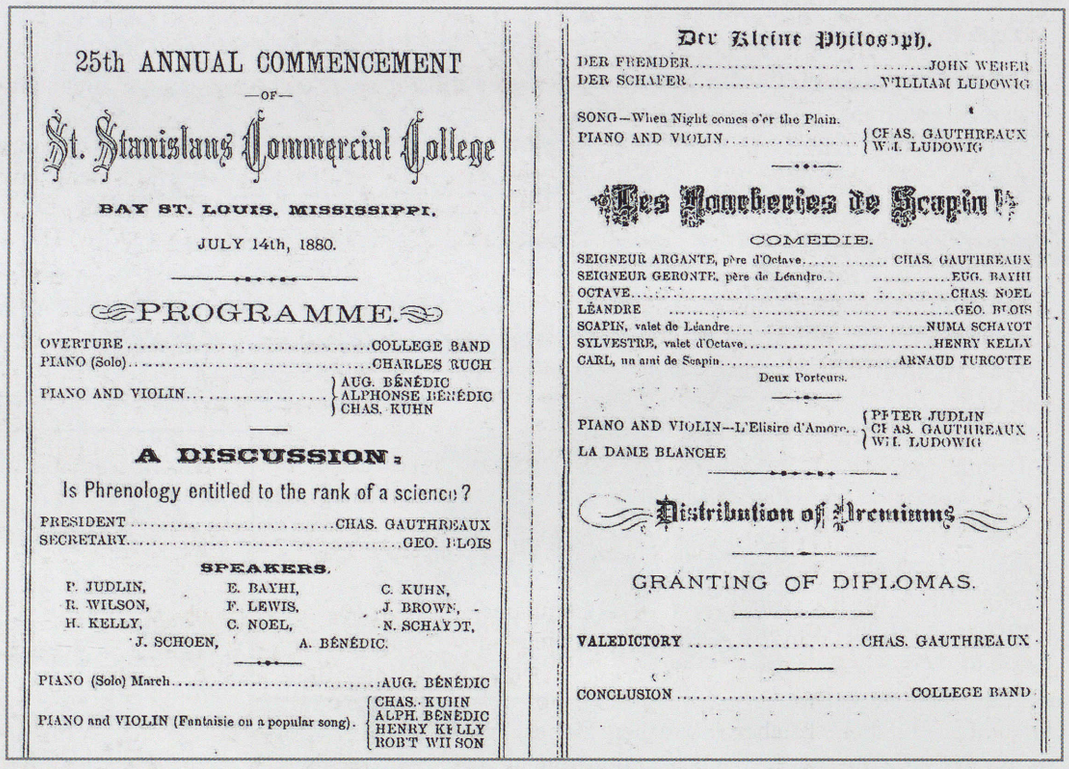
The newspaper article then detailed the three-day exercises of November 16, 17, 18, 1869. The program included oral examinations of the graduates by the professors in front of the large public audience; musical solos and duets on piano, violin, and flute; concerts by the school band; orations, speeches, dialogues, and drama--*"all performed with remarkable talent."*

"At first the young men were naturally bashful, but this gradually wore away, and they appeared at their ease; in fact at home in every department of Science and Literature, Ancient and Modern History seemed as familiar to them as if it had been the sole study of their lives.

"The proficiency displayed in the different branches of Mathematics, Geometry, Trigonometry, Algebra, etc., was a matter of astonishment to the large audience.

"At the examination of Bookkeeping, parents wishing to give their children the benefit of a commercial education, could there see the proof that St. Stanislaus College is what it claims to be, a thoroughly commercial establishment."

Following words of praise for the outstanding graduates, the journalist commented on the entertaining drama they performed. Usually the graduates produced one or two plays, often in French or German as well as in English. The writer concluded his article this comment: *"Everyone went home fully satisfied of the merits of this institution, which is every day gaining for itself new laurels and bids fair to rival our best commercial establishments in the South."*



25th ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

—OF—

St. Stanislaus Commercial College

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI.

JULY 14th, 1880.

PROGRAMME.

OVERTURE ..... COLLEGE BAND
PIANO (Solo) ..... CHARLES RUCH
PIANO AND VIOLIN ..... AUG. BÉNÉDIC, ALPHONSE BÉNÉDIC, CHAS. KUHN

A DISCUSSION:

Is Phrenology entitled to the rank of a science?

PRESIDENT ..... CHAS. GAUTHREAUX
SECRETARY ..... GEO. BLOIS

SPEAKERS.

P. JUDLIN, E. BAYHI, C. KUHN,
R. WILSON, F. LEWIS, J. BROWN,
H. KELLY, C. NOEL, N. SCHAYOT,
J. SCHOEN, A. BÉNÉDIC.

PIANO (Solo) March ..... AUG. BÉNÉDIC
PIANO and VIOLIN (Fantaisie on a popular song). CHAS. KUHN, ALPH. BÉNÉDIC, HENRY KELLY, ROBT WILSON

Der Kleine Philosoph.

DER FREMDER ..... JOHN WEBER
DER SCHAFER ..... WILLIAM LUDOWIG

SONG—When Night comes o'er the Plain.
PIANO AND VIOLIN ..... CHAS. GAUTHREAUX, WM. LUDOWIG

Les Fourberies de Scapin

COMEDIE.

SEIGNEUR ARGANTE, père d'Octave ..... CHAS. GAUTHREAUX
SEIGNEUR GERONTE, père de Léandre ..... EUG. BAYHI
OCTAVE ..... CHAS. NOEL
LÉANDRE ..... GEO. BLOIS
SCAPIN, valet de Léandre ..... NUMA SCHAYOT
SYLVESTRE, valet d'Octave ..... HENRY KELLY
CARL, un ami de Scapin ..... ARNAUD TURCOTTE

Deux Porteurs.

PIANO AND VIOLIN—L'Elisire d'Amore ..... PETER JUDLIN, CHAS. GAUTHREAUX, WM. LUDOWIG
LA DAME BLANCHE

Distribution of Premiums

GRANTING OF DIPLOMAS.

VALEDICTORY ..... CHAS. GAUTHREAUX

CONCLUSION ..... COLLEGE BAND

St. Stanislaus College's 25th graduation program in 1880 followed a format similar to the 3-day exercises described in *The New Orleans Times* in 1869.

PROSPECTUS
—OF—
St. Stanislaus Commercial College.
[CHARTERED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE.]
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI.

THIS INSTITUTION, which has been successfully conducted by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, since 1855, is pleasantly situated on the shores of the Gulf, commanding a fine prospect, and enjoying the advantages of sea breeze during the summer months. The spacious buildings, the well shaded play grounds, and the opportunity for sea bathing afforded by the Gulf, with the well-known salubrity of the place—all concur in making the College a delightful retreat, admirably adapted to promote the health and comfort of its numerous pupils.

The special object of the Institution is to prepare young men for a Commercial state of life.

The system of Government, though strict and uniformly requiring compliance with the established discipline, is mild and parental. The students, being at all times under the supervision of a Prefect, aided by one of the Professors, infractions of the rules are in a great measure prevented.

The religious and moral instruction of the pupils is attended to with the greatest solicitude.

No student will be retained whose morals are known to be corrupt, or whose influence might prove prejudicial to his fellow students. Pupils of all denominations are admitted, and their religious opinions unrestricted

The scholastic year commences on or about the 15th of September, and ends about the 15th of July.

Pupils are received at any time of the year. The age of admission is from seven to sixteen years.

COURSE OF STUDIES.

PRIMARY.

In this will be taught Spelling, English and French Reading, Writing and Arithmetical Tables.

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

The former course continued, with the addition of English Grammer, Sacred History, History of the United States, Composition, French Reading and Practical Arithmetic. Book Keeping commenced.

COMMERCIAL.

Composition and Rhetoric, Elocution, Higher Arithmetic, Algebra, Elements o Geometry, Geography, Ancient and Modern History, Book Keeping, Business Forms and French Grammer.

SUPERIOR COURSE.

This course completes the higher Commercial branches, and includes Commercial Law, Geometry, with applications to Drawing and Mensuration, Trigometry, Surveying, Navigation, Astronomy, Conic Sections, Calculus, Physics and Chemistry.

The Musical Department, Vocal and Instrumental, is in charge of a competent Professor. There is a Brass Band, the members of which rehearse daily.

The College is provided with all the APPARATUS required to illustrate the general principles of Physics and Chemistry.

EXTRA CHARGES.

Piano and Violin, per month, each	$6 00	Spanish and German Languages, per month, each	$ 5 00
Use of Piano, per month	1 50	Use of Physical and Chemical Apparatus, per year	5 00
Flute, per month	4 00	Graduation fees	10 00
Brass Instuments, per month	1 00		
Drawing, per month	4 00		

Each Boarder should be provided with 12 shirts, 12 pocket handkerchiefs, 12 pair stockings, 6 cravats, 4 pair of drawers, 6 towels, 6 table napkins, 4 summer frock coats, 6 pair summer pantaloons, 2 winter coats, 2 winter pantaloons, 3 pair shoes, 1 cap, 1 mattress 5 feet long and 2½ broad, 1 double woollen blanket, 1 pillow, 4 pillow cases, 3 pair sheets, combs, brushes, etc.

N. B.—Everything must be marked with name in full.

No advances are made by the Institution for clothing, traveling, pocket money, etc. A sum of money should be deposited to cover these expenses.

Parents and guardians will find it advantageous to enter their sons or wards in the beginning of the session.

For further particulars, apply by letter to Brother FLORIMOND, President of the College, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

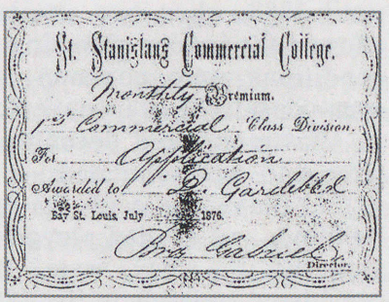
REFERENCE.—The Director of St Aloysius Academy, corner of Chartres and Barracks streets New Orleans.

For further particulars send for *PROSPECTUS.*

Ads and Awards Promote School

The large ad on the left appeared in a July 1880 issue of *The New Orleans Monthly Crescent.* Br. Florimond Pauble, president of St. Stanislaus for 16 years between 1861 and 1884, knew the value of advertising, and he published similar ads in many different newspapers.

Br. Florimond's summary prospectus provided an outline for courses of studies for students ages seven through sixteen on four academic levels: primary, intermediate, commercial, and superior. Tuition was $250, plus a $50 supplement if students stayed during summer vacation.


St. Stanislaus Commercial College.
Monthly Premium.
1st Commercial Class Division.
For Application
Awarded to D. Gardebled
Bay St. Louis July 1876.
Director.

The above photocopy of a monthly premium glued on the inside cover of a book illustrates one means used by the College to reward and motivate students.

Br. Gabriel Granger, College president, awarded the book to student D. Gardebled in July 1876. The book presented was author Conrad Von Bolanden's *The Progressionists and Angela,* a 1873 translation from German.

Joseph Parrillo, an alumnus of St. Aloysius in New Orleans living in Mobile, owns the book and informed the College of it.

Resident Students Follow Rigorous Routines in 1880s

Life for students in the 1880s was tough as compared to today: no running water in the dorm, no plumbing, no electricity, no telephones. Thus, there were no video games, no computers, no televisions, and no air-conditioning. Without skateboards, roller blades, or scooters, students still had a good time during recreation playing cards and billiards indoors and various ball games outside. In summer the boys swam in the bay.

Rising for the boarders was at 5:30 a.m. An hour of early morning study work began at 6:00 with breakfast at 7:00. Classes went from 8:00 to 4:00. Retiring was at 8:30 p.m.

All resident students remained on campus on weekends and holidays, and many even stayed through the vacation periods and the extended holidays at Christmas time. Most traveled back and forth by train.

Facilities Fine For the 1880s

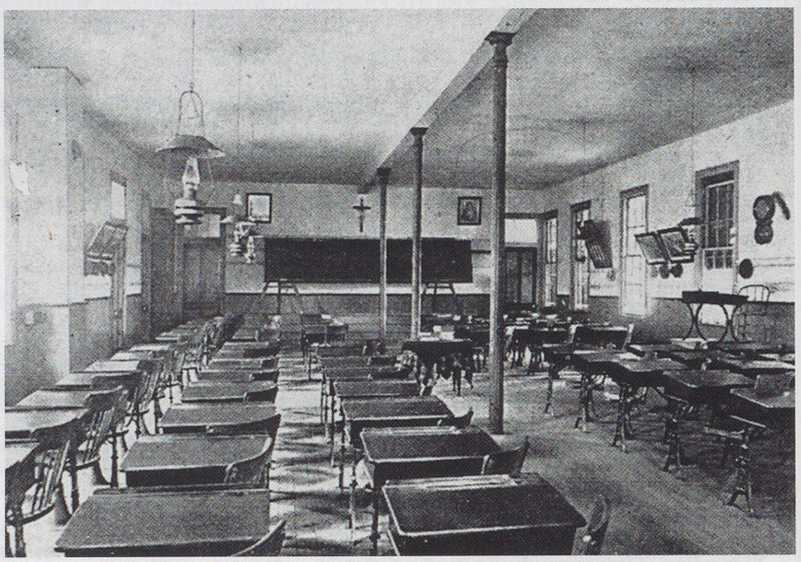
By today's standards the Science Room pictured on the right would be primitive. But in the 1880s, St. Stanislaus could rightfully boast of an outstanding collection of equipment and displays that would be the envy of any college.

The students' study hall on the right shows rows of kerosene lamps suspended from the high ceiling to provide light for night-time study.

Not only did the students at St. Stanislaus manage well without electricity which came to the campus only in 1900, but they also had to haul water for washing and bathing until 1888, when two artesian wells allowed for indoor plumbing. These conditions were common and not even considered as inconveniences.

Classrooms and dormitories were large and well-ventilated. Facilities at St. Stanislaus with its spacious buildings and shaded playgrounds in view of the Bay were, in fact, considered superior in the 1880s and were the pride of the province.





"Working Brothers" Provide Necessary Support Services

While St. Stanislaus College was blessed with many Brothers who were outstanding educators, the college also profited tremendously from the services of Brothers often referred to as "working Brothers." These dedicated men served the college and its students as cooks, carpenters, tailors, infirmarians, porters, farmers, gardeners, janitors, linen keepers, and manual laborers.

Some of these Brothers were quite colorful characters, as was seen with Br. Hugh Hamel who swept the galleries and hauled water. His French confrere, Br. Zozime Robert, who was only four feet tall, with short legs and a well-developed body, had a large head which accentuated his unusual appearance. As tailor for 35 years from 1871-1906, Br. Zozime patched the boys' clothes with different colored rags. Also, he sewed swimming trunks out of sturdy materials and then rented them to students for 50 cents a season. As infirmarian, Br. Zozime "cured" his patients quickly with a dose of castor oil and meals consisting primarily of a cup of milk or tea and one piece of dry bread.

Another fascinating person who served St. Stanislaus by gardening and tending to the farm animals for 23 years from 1882 to 1905 was Br. Remigius Gerhard. This Prussian-American approached his work patiently with studied attention. Shortness of breath due to asthma taught Br. Remy to avoid any unnecessary movement. Thus, he trained Democrat, his mule, to open and shut the gates so that he would not have to get down from his cart!

Other Brothers who served many years in support roles critical to the success of the College include Br. Adalbert Chabrier, a husky man of enormous strength who maintained the kerosene lamps and ministered as cook and dishwasher for 40 years between 1858 and 1911; Br. Conrad Halthoff, an imperturbable man who taught German and who served for 31 years between 1861 and 1898 as porter and bell ringer; Br. Lawrence Haggerty, a slim Kentuckian who served as laundry man and linen keeper for 29 years from 1872 to 1901; and Br. Albert Chanel who farmed for 43 years between 1857 and 1905.

College Buys Land, Enhances Facilities

In 1871 the College trustees bought for $5,500 a second strip of beach front land adjoining their property on the north. Like the original purchase, the new tract measured 190 feet wide and almost 1.5 miles deep. The Clannon family residence, a large building facing the bay, stood on the property where the present school now stands. The College soon converted it into an infirmary, offices, and a few private rooms.

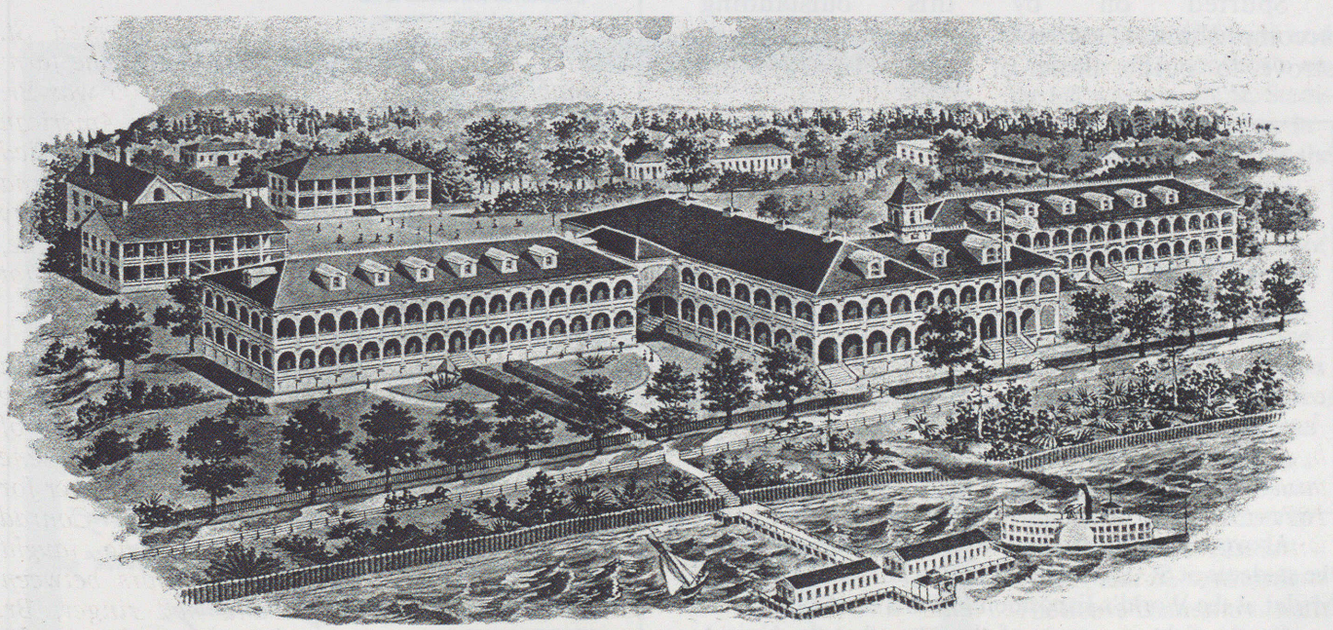
The back part of the new property provided more playground space behind the school. The Brothers then put up a picket fence to separate the junior and senior areas since the school accepted students from ages seven to sixteen.

Eleven years later in 1882, cramped for space with the growing enrollment, the College constructed another two-story wing. The 60' x 35' addition 12 feet north of the main building included a study hall, chapel, and dormitory. In the fall of that year a new kitchen was built. Cost of both structures was $4,700.

In 1890 the Clannon cottage was moved to the rear of the College and used as private rooms for elderly Brothers. Of the 20 Brothers stationed at St. Stanislaus, two of them were in their 70s and two in their 60s. The single story cottage served them very well.

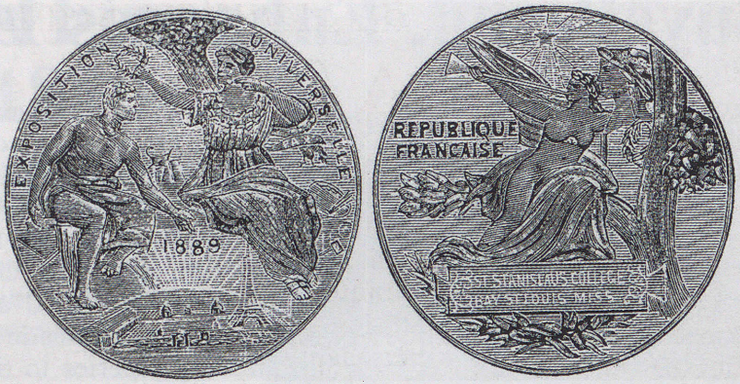
By 1891 the College had outgrown its facilities, so the trustees added a 85' x 30' wing to the one built in 1882. This new $12,000 construction housed a science room, dormitory, and two classrooms. By this time, there were several buildings on the campus from different eras, so the College hired architect James Freret in 1891 to design a facade with beautiful arches and matching galleries to tie all of the buildings together. Local contractor Charles Sanger carried out the plan, giving St. Stanislaus a grand and imposing campus complex that was the pride of the province and city.

While St. Stanislaus owned plenty of acreage behind its buildings, its trustees were happy to acquire additional beach front property in 1896. Mrs. Annie Allen Lynch of New Orleans, sold them the Bay St. Louis Hotel on two lots for $9,000. Bounded by the Bay of St. Louis on the east and Union Street on the north, the lots totaled 108 feet across and afforded the College the entire block on Front Street, now Beach Boulevard. While only 475 feet deep, the lots were choice property on high ground. The College hired Charles Sanger to construct on the site Exhibition Hall, a 150' x 50' building with a museum, science room, and an auditorium. The auditorium complete with a stage with electric lighting accommodated nearly 1,000 people.



The imposing picture of St. Stanislaus College that appeared in the 1891 school catalog showed enhancements made in 1891. Arches and galleries designed by James Freret and constructed by Charles Sanger created a pleasing facade and connected the original building to the various additions made to the south in 1867 and to the north in 1882 and 1891.

Front and back of Silver Medal won in Paris



Academic Acclaim in Paris and Chicago

For the Paris Exposition of 1889, students at St. Stanislaus Commercial College prepared an extensive exhibit. It included portfolios of their daily class work and samples of their productions in plain and ornamental penmanship, sets of bookkeeping, mathematical drawings and demonstrations, as well as diagrams and descriptions of their experiments in the physical sciences.

This 1889 exhibition in Paris brought international acclaim to St. Stanislaus, Bay St. Louis, and the students when the Jury of Examiners in France awarded the College a Silver Medal, the highest award granted to single schools and colleges, gold medals being reserved for state and county systems of education.

Spurred on by this outstanding accomplishment, students in subsequent classes strove to outdo those of 1889. In 1893 St. Stanislaus students made a display of their work at the Catholic Educational Exhibit at the Chicago Exposition. The students' work far surpassed that of 1889 in both quality and quantity. As well as displaying eight portfolios of various pen, linear, and architectural drawings, St. Stanislaus exhibited twelve bound volumes of 300 pages each in mathematics, literature, criticism, languages, and several sciences.

For their outstanding achievements displayed in Chicago, the students at St. Stanislaus were awarded medals and diplomas.

* SCIENCES * INDUSTRIE * ARTS * PROGRÈS *

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie et des Colonies

Exposition Universelle de 1889.

Le Jury International des Récompenses décerne un Diplôme de

MEDAILLE D'ARGENT

à St. Stanislaus Commercial College
à Bay St. Louis (Miss.) Etats-Unis.

GROUPE II. CLASSE 7.

Le Directeur Général de l'Exploitation — G. BERGER.

Le Président du Conseil, Commissaire Général — S. CIRAN.

PARIS, 29 SEPTEMBRE 1889.

Above is a reduced copy of the certificate awarding the students at St. Stanislaus Commercial College a Silver Medal at the World's Exposition in Paris in 1889.

On the right is a copy of the letter that the United States Commissioner of Educational Exhibits at the Paris Exposition sent to Brother Stanislaus Keating, President of St. Stanislaus in 1889, announcing the school's award.

Commissariat Général
DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
A L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE 1889
27, Avenue de la Bourdonnais.

To President St. Stanislaus College.

Dear Sir,

I think your material compares very favorably indeed with any that has been received, and shows undoubtedly that you teach well all that you profess.

You were awarded a Silver Medal and will receive the diploma after a few months through the Secretary of State.

Thanking you for the fine exhibit you have made, I remain yours truly,

C. Wellman Parks

U. S. Supt. of Group 2, Paris Exposition of 1889.

First 50 Years
Director-Presidents

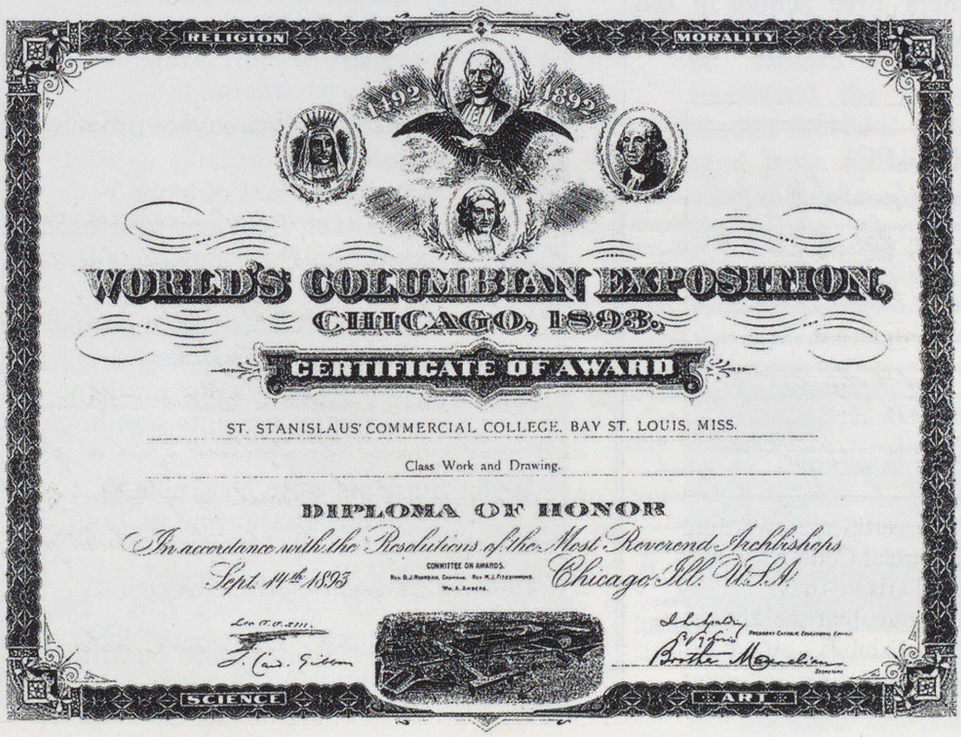
1854-1855	Br. Basile Vamable
1855-1861	Br. Athanasius Faugier
1861-1865	Br. Florimond Pauble
1864-1865	Br. Athanasius (N.O.)
1866-1868	Br. Odon Celle
1868-1875	Br. Florimond Pauble
1875-1877	Br. Gabriel Granger
1877-1881	Br. Florimond Pauble
1881-1883	Br. Stanislaus Keating
1883-1884	Br. Florimond Pauble
1884-1886	Br. Justin Roche
1886-1889	Br. Osmond Bagnol
1889-1896	Br. Stanislaus Keating
1896-1903	Br. Isidore Balmadier
1903-1904	Br. Felix Hoffman

Br. Stanislaus Keating

A Scholastic Giant

A man of deep faith and real piety, Br. Stanislaus Keating was an educational giant in the province. Contemporaries of Br. Stanislaus described him as a man seething with energy and ideas. He served as founding director of St. Aloysius in New Orleans and St. Joseph in Metuchen, New Jersey. His winning personality and practical prudence led his Brothers to elect him first councilor in the administration of the province for 26 years from 1886 to 1912. As the president of St. Stanislaus Commercial College three times for a total of 17 years, a record that still stands today, Br. Stanislaus proved himself as a far-visioned, creative, and innovative educational leader.

During his first term, 1881-83, he constructed a chapel, dorm, and study halls. Then during his second mandate, 1889-96, Br. Stanislaus hired an architect to tie all the campus buildings together and to construct a science hall and auditorium. While the College won honors in Paris and in Chicago for its commercial subjects, Br. Stanislaus introduced a humanities program leading to a bachelor of arts or letters degree, requiring the study of Latin, Greek, and classical and English literature. The sterling scholastic reputation that he helped St. Stanislaus College achieve bolstered its enrollment to a capacity of 187 students by 1897. He returned to his beloved school in 1905 to serve eight more years as president, until blindness forced his retirement in 1913.


RELIGION MORALITY

1492 1893

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION,
CHICAGO, 1893.

CERTIFICATE OF AWARD

ST. STANISLAUS' COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.

Class Work and Drawing.

DIPLOMA OF HONOR

In accordance with the Resolutions of the Most Reverend Archbishops

Sept. 14th 1893 COMMITTEE ON AWARDS. Chicago Ill. U.S.A.

SCIENCE ART

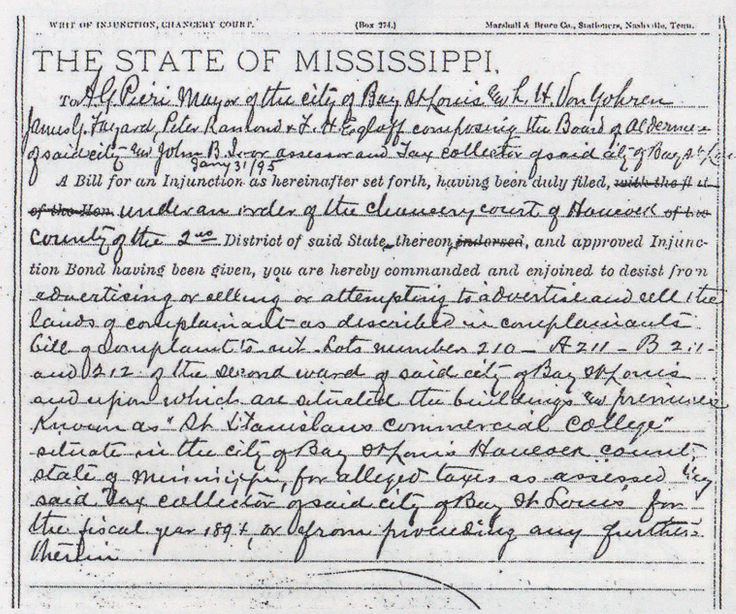
The Certificate of Award and Diploma of Honor shown on the left was won by St. Stanislaus Commercial College in competition at Chicago at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. St. Stanislaus's outstanding exhibit of class work was commended by the judges as follows: *"First, for attention given to Penmanship and Meritorious Pen-and-Ink Sketches in great variety; Second, for especial excellence in Charcoal Studies; Third, for excellent original Essay and Superior Work in English, Mathematics, and Book-Keeping."* The above citation was signed by T. W. Palmer, himself, president of the World's Columbian Commission at the time.

Tax Exemption Upheld

Until 1870 when St. Stanislaus Commercial College was chartered by the Mississippi State Legislature as a college and incorporated as an educational institution, Brother Alphonse Bernard and Brother Athanasius Faugier paid taxes on the school property since it was in their names. After Brother Athanasius transferred the property to the trustees of St. Stanislaus College, no taxes were due since as a legal educational institution it was exempt.

In 1894 city officials determined that the College should be taxed. To that end, tax assessor, John Ioor, Mayor A. G. Pieri, and his board of aldermen brought action to collect from the College back taxes on all properties owned by the school, and threatened to advertise the school's property for sale due to delinquent taxes. The College obtained a writ of injunction on January 31, 1895, but city officials plagued the College with legal battles for years. When the College acquired additional beachfront property in 1896, city officials, chagrined at losing more tax revenue, pressed the issue more vigorously.

Finally on January 27, 1897, Judge Neville C. Hill gave judgment in Hancock County Chancery Court in favor of St. Stanislaus Commercial College, reiterating that as an educational institution it was not subject to taxation. The decision eased the tensions. The vast majority of townspeople supported the College, especially in view of the fact that enrollment at the Brothers' Free School in Bay St. Louis was averaging about 100 boys per session.



WRIT OF INJUNCTION, CHANCERY COURT. (Box 274.) Marshall & Bruce Co., Stationers, Nashville, Tenn.

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

To A.G. Pieri Mayor of the city of Bay St Louis & W. H. Van Goberen James J. Hazard, Peter Rankin & L. H. Eglaff composing the Board of Aldermen of said city & Wm John B. Ioor assessor and Tax Collector of said city of Bay St Louis Jany 31/95

A Bill for an Injunction as hereinafter set forth, having been duly filed, ~~with the fiat of the Hon.~~ under an order of the Chancery court of Hancock County of the 2nd District of said State, thereon ~~indorsed~~, and approved Injunction Bond having been given, you are hereby commanded and enjoined to desist from advertising or selling or attempting to advertise and sell the lands of complainant as described in complainants Bill of Complaint to wit Lots numbers 210 - A 211 - B 211 - and B 212 of the second ward of said city of Bay St Louis and upon which are situated the buildings & premises known as "St Stanislaus Commercial College" situate in the city of Bay St Louis Hancock county, state of Mississippi, for alleged taxes as assessed by said Tax collector of said city of Bay St Louis for the fiscal year 1894 & from proceeding any further therein

GLOWING REPUTATION

1870 School obtains college charter
Land transferred to trustees

1871 Trustees purchase 2nd strip of beachfront, 190 ft x 1.5 miles

1877 Br. Gabriel Granger, College President, dies at age 31

1880 School holds 25th graduation

1882 North wing added: chapel, dorm, study halls

1885 First seawall constructed

1888 Two artesian wells dug

1889 Paris Exposition brings honors

1890 Peter Hemmersbach, first full-time lay faculty member

1891 Another north wing added: science room, auditorium
Four main buildings tied together with arches

1893 Honors won at World's Exposition in Chicago
Hurricane damages college, destroys train bridge

1894 City tries to tax school property

1896 School buys rest of block between Bookter and Union
Exhibition Hall constructed

1897 Court upholds tax exemption of St. Stanislaus College
Yellow fever kills Br. Emilien Compte; students sent home

1898 Students go to Nashville to avoid quarantine in June

1900 Campus wired for electricity

1903 Fire devastates main buildings

Severe Adversities Strengthen College

Throughout the last quarter of the nineteenth century, St. Stanislaus Commercial College continued to face and overcome several severe adversities, among them sickness, death of the college president, serious storms, and challenges from civil authorities. In the process of turning each crisis into a challenge, the college grew stronger and assured its reputation even more.

President's Death Inspires Students

In 1875 young Brother Gabriel Granger, age 29, took over as director and college president. As disciplinarian at St. Stanislaus, Br. Gabriel had proved himself very popular with the students, making studying fun and interesting. A man of many talents, he had a keen mind and a ready wit and loved to pull pranks on students and Brothers alike. In October 1877, while working outdoors, Br. Gabriel caught a cold that developed into what doctors of his day called *"galloping consumption,"* what we know today as tuberculosis. He died December 2, 1877, at Hotel Dieu Hospital in New Orleans, the second college president to die in office. His cheerfulness, even on his deathbed, inspired Brothers and students who mourned his loss.

School Battles Yellow Fever

No sooner had the 1897-98 school session opened in September with a record enrollment of 187 students than yellow fever once again hit the Gulf Coast. Students were sent home, and 15 Brothers took turns with other volunteer guards to enforce a quarantine around the city. But Bay St. Louis was not spared. The Brothers then helped care for the sick, having earned valuable experience from previous attacks of 1867, 1870, and 1878. Every Brother eventually fell sick in 1897, and Br. Emilien Compte, age 24, died October 25. He was a big loss to the college faculty since he was a teacher whom the students loved and esteemed.

St. Stanislaus reopened December 9, 1897, but only 50 students showed up for classes. By New Year, however, 140 students were back on campus. Just two weeks before final exams in June 1898, there was threat of another attack along the Coast. Br. Isidore Balmadier, college president, decided to close school early and send the students home, but on June 12 the New Orleans health officials closed all traffic from Mississippi. After two secret attempts to return students to New Orleans by steamboat were thwarted, Brother Isidore chartered cars on the L & N Railroad and took all resident students with him to Nashville, Tennessee, on June 22. From there, the Brothers were able to help them return to their homes in Louisiana.

Hurricanes Lead to Seawall

After the Hurricane of 1888 washed away much of the beach and embankment in front of the College, the Brothers built the first seawall in Bay St. Louis. It was made of creosoted cypress pilings driven well below the surface of the sand.

On October 2, 1893, it was tested when a hurricane hit the Gulf Coast from Mississippi to Texas. Waves in the Bay of St. Louis reached 15 feet and knocked out the railroad bridge and the thousand-foot long pier and bath houses that the College had constructed. The school was cut off from the outside world for days as all telegraph lines were down and the trains could not run. No students were hurt, and the damage to the school buildings did not prevent classes from assembling.

Students helped the Brothers clean up, and Br. Isidore Balmadier and Charles Sanger reinforced the seawall which still stood even though the tidal wave had washed the road and sand from behind it. Behind the old pilings, they built a more durable retaining wall of rock and ballast. In 1894 the College rebuilt the pier, higher and stronger, for $1,600. The new 1,000 foot wharf lasted until the Hurricane of 1915.



Pier built in 1894 by Charles Sanger served until 1915. This photo from the 1914 school catalog shows the 1,000 foot pier's large bath house and its three platforms.

Professors Hemmersbach, First Lay Faculty Members

Professor Peter J. Hemmersbach, a graduate of Cologne Conservatory in Germany, had some big shoes to fill in 1890 as the first full-time lay faculty member at St. Stanislaus. He replaced Br. Marie Germain Carcenac, an accomplished musician on the piano, violin, and flute, who had taught music at the College for 32 years, building a superb program including a band and choir. Prof. Peter Hemmersbach proved equal to the task, and enrollment in music courses increased from 40 to 50 students.

In 1891 his brother Professor John A. Hemmersbach taught vocal and instrumental music, and took over as department head at the College. By 1893, the two professors Hemmersbach had expanded the music program to include the Beethoven Orchestra, the St. Stanislaus Orchestra, two Brass Bands, a Mandolin Club, St. Cecilia's Choral Union, and the Glee Club.

Prof. John Hemmersbach performed on the cornet with his bands, played the organ for the College Choir, and directed the Glee Club. Weekly one or more his bands, choirs, or clubs performed publicly at the College, the church, or in town, always with great expertise. Winning acclaim for his great abilities, he brought renown to St. Stanislaus College and its students.

In 1908 Prof. Carl Hemmersbach succeeded his brother John. His younger brother, Prof. Joseph Hemmersbach took over the SSC music department in 1916, beginning his 47-year relationship with the College. The four brothers Hemmersbach taught students to love the "Art Divine" and to regard its study as a privilege.



The 1898-99 College Brass Band poses on the campus lawn with Professor John Hemmersbach, far right:
Louis Guidry, 1st cornet
Arthur Brou, 2nd cornet
Eugene Soulier, solo alto
George Wilbert, 1st alto
James Daniels, 1st alto
Maurice Ephraim, 2nd alto
Edward Belton, 3rd alto
George E. Burch, 4th alto
Antoine J. Burch, 1st tenor
Benijah Wilbert, 2nd tenor
Henry Fanguy, 2nd tenor
Walter C Wagner, baritone
Maurice Waguespack, bass
Bernard Reid, snare drum
and T. Weston Brown, drum and cymbals. Three Brothers also participated in the band that year.

Student Activities Expanded in 1890s

Strong proponents of a holistic education, the Brothers sponsored co-curricular and extra-curricular programs at St. Stanislaus from its very beginning. The League of the Sacred Heart began in 1854 and the band in 1855.

In the 1890s as the faculty and student body grew in numbers, student activities covered a wide range of interests. Almost every student participated in one or more spiritual societies such as the League of the Sacred Heart or the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception.

Some programs developed from students' academic interests. For example, the music curriculum gave rise to various philharmonic societies, bands, orchestras, and choral groups. The Reading Circle, Drama Club, and the Irving Literary and Debating Society supplemented the humanities offerings in the curriculum.

Other activities such as the Cycling Club, the Cadets, and the various athletic clubs, especially the various intramural baseball clubs, grew out of natural interests expressed by the students.

Officers of the St. Stanislaus Cadets for 1898-99

Captain Alexander Allain, 1st Lieutenant Charles Cancienne, 2nd Lieutenant Walter Wagner, 1st Sergeant Albert Betz, 2nd Sergeant Joseph Hunter, Color Bearer Clayus Bernaud, 1st Corporal Paul Bienvenu, 2nd Corporal Louis Guidry, and 3rd Corporal Alfred Filhiol.





Baseball's First Nine, 1896-97

Rene Waguespack, pitcher; Lionel Waguespack, catcher; Frank Gallagher, 1st base and team captain; Louis Sentilles, 2nd base; Calixto Piedra, 3rd base and manager; Louis Zehner, shortstop; Maurice Waguespack, center field; Hercules Strate, left field; George McCloskey, right field and secretary; Raoul Basset, scorer; and George Viallon, umpire.

Military Cadets Learn Discipline

War in Cuba was a major topic of conversation among SSC students in the late 1890s, and the St. Stanislaus Cadets offered an outlet for their military interests. The stated goal of the Cadets was *"to accustom young men to habits of exactness by training them to precision of movement and erectness of carriage."*

Fully equipped with regulation arms and accoutrement, more than 70 cadets in two companies devoted two afternoons a week to drilling tactics, and two days a week to a full dress parade through the streets of downtown Bay St. Louis.

Athletic Clubs Teach Teamwork

Early catalogs for SSC College asserted that *"The Brothers in charge of the college, persuaded that physical training forms an integral part of a comprehensive education, view with pleasure any reasonable sports which tend to develop the strength and vigor of the students. The College Campus is an extensive and turfy tract, well fitted for hardy sports, and it is dotted by shaded oaks, under whose spreading branches are placed the gymnastic apparatus."*

Gymnastics and football were popular, but baseball was the favorite sport among the students during the 1890s. Most students belonged to an intramural baseball team. Each team organized itself and elected its officers. The college catalog for 1894 listed four different baseball teams and gave the names and positions of each player. Some years the baseball clubs chose catchy names such as the Quicksteps, the Invincibles, the and Hard-Hitters.

By 1901 SSC had seven baseball teams: the Elks, Orioles, Pelicans, Eagles, Buffaloes, Cardinals, and the Crescents. When interscholastic baseball competition began in 1903, SSC fielded a formidable team.



St. Stanislaus College.

RELIGION, SCIENCE AND OUR COUNTRY.

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

Chartered by the Legislature of Mississippi and empowered to confer Degrees and grant Diplomas.

Be it Known, This Diploma is awarded to Master Calixto A. Piedra conferring on him the Honorary Degree of C. & A., and the same certifies that he has pursued at this College a thorough course of Commercial Studies, including Penmanship, Business Forms, Commercial Correspondence, Rhetoric and History, Commercial and Higher Arithmetic, and all branches of Book Keeping, Commercial Law, Algebra Geometry, Trigonometry and Surveying, that he has undergone a thorough and satisfactory Examination on the above mentioned branches, and that his social and moral virtues commend him to the esteem and confidence of all men.

In Witness Whereof, by powers vested in us by law, we have given these letters under our hand and Corporate Seal, this Thirtieth day of June in the year of our Lord MDCCCXCVIII.

Bro. Isidore President

Bro. Daniel Vice President

T. FITZWILLIAM & CO. N.O.

Calixto A. Piedo's Master of Accounts parchment diploma shown above measures 14 x 18 inches. The St. Stanislaus Commercial College diploma signed by Br. Isidore Balmadier, president, and Br. Daniel Hendricks, vice president, remains in the school archives. Because of a yellow fever quarantine, school ended two weeks early without the usual graduation ceremonies, and Calixto left for Mobile on June 23 without his diploma which is dated June 30, 1898.

Calixto's brother Charles M. Piedro died from yellow fever a year and a half later on February 18, 1900, while a resident student at St. Stanislaus. He is one of the few students buried in the Brothers' Cemetery at Bay St. Louis.

College Life at the Turn of the Century

According to a list published in the 1900 school catalog, 178 students attended St. Stanislaus College that year. Most students came from Louisiana and Mississippi, but there were ten foreign students from Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

All students studied Religion, math, history, science, language arts, elocution and penmanship yearly, as essential to any curriculum. Courses of study at the College came under one of three departments: preparatory, commercial, and classical. The preparatory program included two grades, similar to today's first two years of high school. The commercial course took four years to complete, at the end of which students were awarded a Master of Accounts degree. Grade levels were designated as Second Commercial, First Commercial, Superior, and Graduating. They were comparable to today's senior high and junior college. There was a heavy emphasis on bookkeeping and accounting.

Students in the classical program studied Latin, Greek, and four years of a foreign language such as French or German, as well as literature to earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Letters degree. In addition to these three departments, an Elementary Department offered courses for younger students and others not yet qualified for higher courses.



Senior Division, 1900, with prefect Br. Andrew Linchi



Junior Division, 1900, with prefect Br. Gustave Renault

Weekend Entertainment and Special Holiday Events

In the early 1900s, students remained on campus for all weekends and holidays. Campus life was divided into a senior and a junior division, each with its own dormitory and playground. For recreation, students enjoyed informal athletic games and outdoor gymnastics, as well as organized intramural baseball games on the college green. Many participated in the various clubs or music programs available.

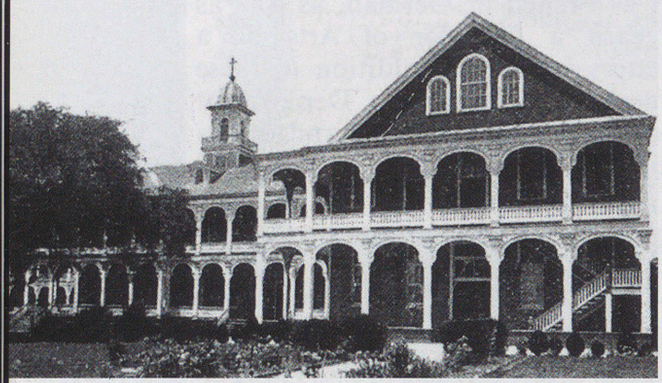
Thursdays were holidays, but there were classes on Saturdays. Every Saturday evening there was some form of entertainment in the large Exhibition Hall, usually a play or recital presented by one of the departments or clubs.

Weekends, Thursdays, and holiday periods provided opportunities for fishing on the pier, crawfishing with homemade nets in the swampy woods on the back property, snake hunting, hiking, swimming and rowing in the Bay, cookouts, and walking through town with a prefect to buy candy and cigarettes at local stores. Smoking was allowed since its harmful effects were not recognized. Students could not receive food packages from home except at Christmas, so trips to town were joyful events.

Each holiday had its special events, meals and picnics, such as an all-day hike on the feast of St. Stanislaus. For Christmas, students cut a large pine tree from the woods, put oil barrels around its trunk, and piled it with scrap lumber for a glorious bonfire and fireworks display on campus. Mardi Gras included an all-day parade, with the student king arriving by yacht at the wharf, and an annual ball in the evening. On Easter Sunday students sang a High Mass and on Easter Monday they held a Field Day.

Times-Democrat

NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1903.



Valuable Contents Lost

As indicated in the article on the right from the front page of the New Orleans *Times Democrat*, the 1903 fire destroyed most of the main buildings on campus: the classrooms, chapel, offices, and dormitories as well as the large Exhibition Hall, shown above, which housed the Science Room museum, auditorium, and stage.

Br. Isidore Balmadier, president, managed to save important permanent records from the main office. But precious relics of Aztec art and the Civil War as well valuable science equipment such as an Edison phonograph and several apparatuses for X-Ray, telegraphy, and carbon light were all lost. Students saved some of the library books by tossing them out a window and stacking them under a tree until it was unsafe to salvage any longer.

Not only were all furnishings destroyed, students lost all of their clothes and personal belongings.

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Students and Faculty All Escape Uninjured, But Lose Their Personal Effects — Nothing But Ashes and Embers Left of the Noted Institution at Bay St. Louis — Town People Care for the Shelterless.

Special to The Times-Democrat.

Bay St. Louis, Miss., June 21.—The St. Stanislaus College, Brothers of the Sacred Heart, was destroyed by fire tonight shortly after 9 o'clock. The loss, partially covered by insurance, is estimated to be $65,000, and while the students and faculty were in considerable danger for some time, every one escaped without injury. Nearly all trunks and valuables were lost with the buildings and furniture.

The college buildings, built of wood and fronting the Sound for 450 feet, extending nearly the same distance back from the water front road. They constituted a feature of the summer resort for many years, and had an enviable name in sectarian educational circles. Students were drawn from all parts of the South, particularly from Southern Mississippi and Louisiana.

There was no sign of disaster when the greater number of the inmates of the college retired for the night shortly before 9 o'clock. By 9:15 the entire establishment was wrapped in silence and darkness.

At 9:20 a watchman discovered flames issuing from the roof of the central building, where the trunks and surplus baggage of the students and faculty were stored. The alarm was quickly given, but the fire had already made such headway that the efforts of the local fire companies, added to those of the inmates and the neighbors, could not check the progress of destruction. The flames spread from the central part of the central building to the entire main structure, then leaped across the open spaces to the adjoining edifices. Meantime people gathered from far and wide until fully 1000 were on the scene. The students and faculty fled from the burning college, the greater number in their night clothes, without vestige of baggage or valuables. They were given refuge in the Clifton Hotel and the Tulane Hotel, as well as with a number of private families.

For a time efforts were made to rescue some of the property from the burning structures, but the swift spreading of the flames soon precluded all hope of accomplishing this; and all work was then directed to preventing the spreading of the fire. Boatmen from out in the Sound gathered, attracted by the flames seen far out at sea. Tourists and visitors from the hotels flocked to the scene. Boatmen and tourists worked together to save property and life.

For one hour the fire raged, eating and tearing at the college buildings, scorching the houses near. Then energy and determination began to gain the ascendancy. The flames were beaten back at all points outside the college grounds; but within those they had their way. One hour and a half after the first alarm there remained of St. Stanislaus nothing but ashes and embers.

Nothing could be learned to-night as to the plans of the brothers concerning their immediate movements. They and their charges are being cared for temporarily by the people of Bay St. Louis; and it is probable that course of action will be announced until the diocesan authorities have been heard from.

The following policies were carried on the college buildings and furnishings:

Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Hartford, Conn.	$8,200
Home, New York	2,500
New York Underwriters, New York	8,600
National of Hartford, Hartford, Conn.	10,000
Sun Insurance Company, New Orleans	5,000
Royal Insurance Company, Liverpool	2,500
Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company	5,000
Total	$36,800

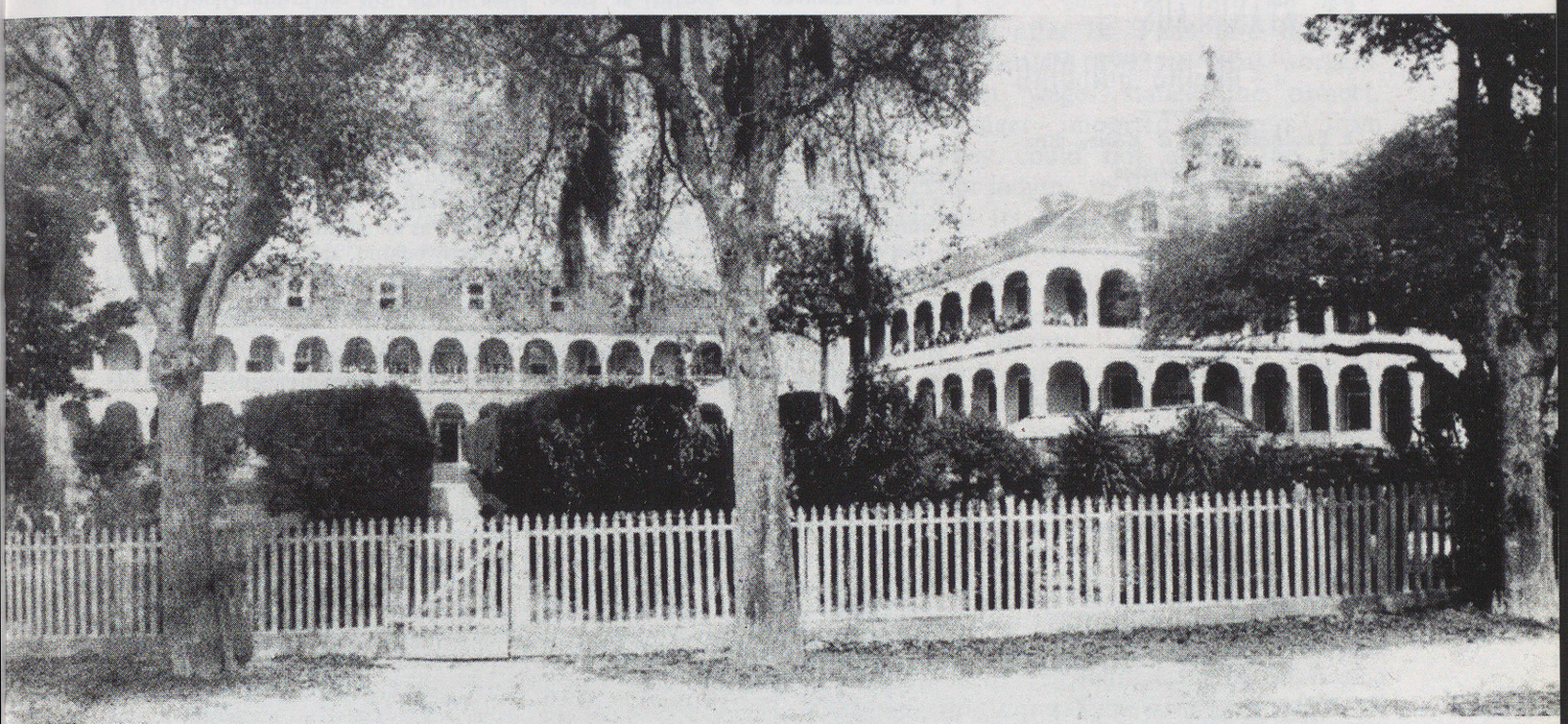
Fire Reduces College to Ashes in 1903

In just about one hour, fire totally consumed the front buildings on the St. Stanislaus College campus. Br. Louis-Felix Sauvat noted in his diary that the fire alarm sounded quickly at about 9:30 on Sunday night, June 1, 1903, allowing all 150 students and Brothers to exit safely. The city fire department rushed to the scene, but its equipment proved inadequate.

Volunteers led by Mr. Frank Quintini, the College butcher, and several young Brothers, quickly formed a bucket brigade. They succeeded in saving the dining hall, music hall, and kitchen building in spite of intense heat which scorched their clothes. By the time that the fire was under control, nothing remained of the main buildings but ashes. The cause of the fire remained undetermined, but scuttlebutt blamed an unnamed careless smoker in the clothesroom.

Students had no where to sleep. Gracious townspeople and local hotels opened their doors to the homeless students and Brothers. By midnight all the boys and Brothers were housed and had a bed to sleep in. Very early the next morning, after a good breakfast served in the school dining hall that they had helped save, students bought new clothes in town and left for home, assured that classes would resume in October and vowing that they would return.

Photo of the main school buildings that burned in 1903, showing the student body on the gallery and in the cupola



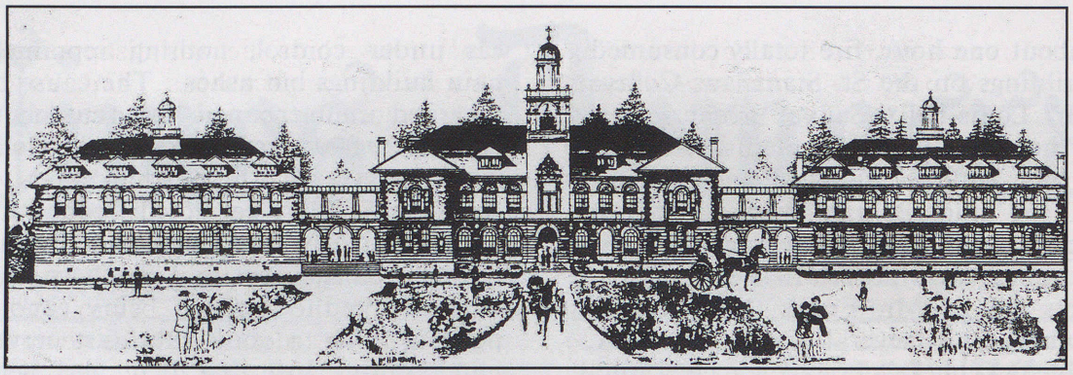


Students in 1948 use the dining room that survived the 1903 fire. In 1949 the present brick dining hall was constructed.

Students Vow to Return

Before setting off for home, students asked College officials when the new school would ready, and they vowed to return in the fall even if classes had to be held under the oaks. No thoughts of frustration or discouragement crossed the minds of students or faculty according to Br. Louis-Felix in his diary.

Of course, the Brothers worried where they would find funds to rebuild even though they had no doubt that they would. This crisis, like so many before it, would only serve to make St. Stanislaus College a stronger school.



NEW ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE BUILDINGS, BAY ST. LOUIS.

ST. STANISLAUS BEGINS BUILDING

A Handsome Group of Modern Structures to Replace

The Historic Bay St. Louis Edifice Burned Down.

Classes Will Be Conducted in Temporary Quarters

While the New Institution Is Being Erected, Completion Being Expected by December.

On the site lately occupied by the historic buildings of St. Stanislaus College, at Bay St. Louis, Miss., which were destroyed by fire, there will soon be erected anew and much handsomer structures. Their appearance, commodiousness and imposing architecture will be signal evidences of the energy, enterprise and good taste of the religious community of Brothers, foremost among educators, who have decided to conquer adverse circumstance by having the College buildings rebuilt with the least possible delay.

The Brothers engaged the services of Messrs. Diboll & Owen, prominent architects of this city, who have earned a deserved reputation as designers of buildings for educational and religious institutions, notably the Jesuits' College at the corner of Baronne and Commons Streets; the Convent of the Sacred Heart on St. Charles Avenue, and the Parochial School of Sts. Peter and Paul, in the Third District.

The firm drew the plans and specifications for a group of buildings to cost $50,000. The plans were accepted, and it was resolved to begin at once. Ground was broken on the site yesterday, and the work will be rapidly pushed to completion, so that between Christmas and New Year's the new buildings will be finished. In the meantime the Brothers will hold their classes as if nothing had happened. The scholastic year will open October 6. Temporary arrangements have been provided to take care of the students. The Brothers have secured the use of the surrounding villas which will be used as sleeping quarters of the students. Provisional classrooms have been erected on the grounds, and they will be equipped with every facility for the comfort and convenience of the young men attending the College. The kitchen and refectory suffered no material injury, as they were some distance in the rear of the main building.

The general plan of the College is that of a group of three buildings, constructed of brick, with slate roofs, and having considerable ornamentation in carved cement. The buildings will be splendid specimens of colonial architecture, so admirably suited to the environments.

These buildings will have a frontage of 390 feet parallel with the Gulf of Mexico. All the principal rooms will have exposures to the southeast, facing the gulf, and every room will be large and lofty, so as to admit as much air as possible.

The buildings, planned for the present, besides the Alumni Hall, will be three in number. The central structure will be three stories high, and the wings each two-story and attic. They will be connected by arcades, so that students will be enabled to circulate from one building to the other without being exposed to the weather. The central building will have a main entrance through a middle tower, flanked by arcaded galleries, and connecting with the wings. On the ground floor will be the reception rooms and the study rooms for seniors and juniors. The second story will be occupied by the seniors' dormitory, and to the left will be the temporary location of the chapel, which will be so arranged that with the expected growth of the Institution the chapel can be removed and the space utilized as an addition to the dormitory. Directly behind, and in connection with the seniors' sleeping apartments, there will be the seniors' lavatory, which will be equipped with the latest and most improved sanitary plumbing. Some idea of the completeness of the equipment may be had when it is said that each student will have an individual lavatory, comprising a porcelain-lined wash tub, with water supply and waste pipes, so that no student will have to use the wash tub of his neighbor.

The third floor will be used as wardrobe for the storing and proper care of the clothing of the students. An elevator will be operated to connect the three stories of the building. The right wing will contain the recitation rooms of the junior department, and the junior dormitory will occupy the whole of the space on the second floor. The juniors will have a lavatory exactly similar in arrangements and equipment to that of the seniors, just described.

The building to the left will contain the seniors' recitation rooms and the scenic hall. The upper story and attic will be devoted to the private apartments of the community.

An idea of the size of the building can be had by noting the size of the seniors' dormitory, which will be 60x100 feet. The main building will be 190 feet long, and each wing 100 feet long. Along the entire side of the buildings facing the campus there will be a 10-foot gallery on both stories.

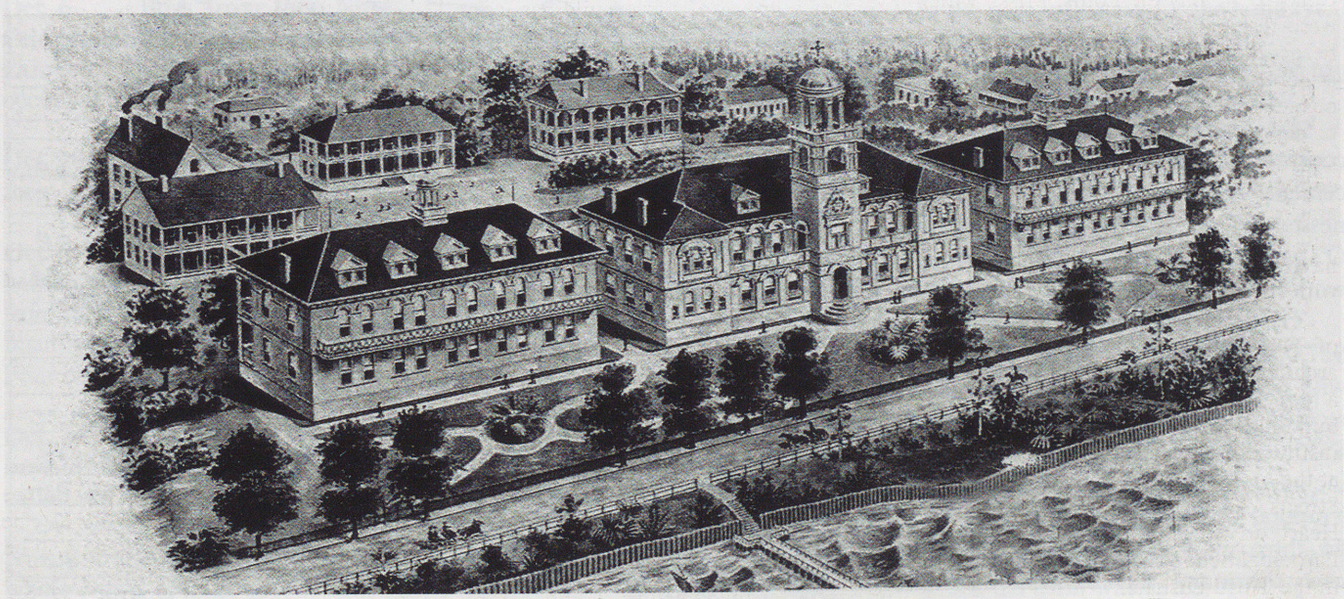
Br. Felix Builds College with Boldness

Born and reared in Bay St. Louis, Br. Felix Hoffman, returned to SSC, his *alma mater,* as its president in July 1903. The Brothers at St. Stanislaus were discouraged, not just because of the fire but also because they had lost their leaders. Br. Isidore Balmadier, president, had been appointed provincial superior. His vice-president, the capable Br. Daniel Hendricks, had quit religious life in July when his temporary vows expired. As provincial, Br. Isidore looked to Br. Felix, the successful president at Catholic High in Baton Rouge, to lead the College and to oversee immediate construction of a new school.

Br. Felix found his sympathetic townspeople anxious to see the school rebuilt. Mr. Charles Moreau, editor of the local paper *The Sea Coast Echo,* had written on June 27, 1903: *"Both the city and College have been so long linked in common interest as to become one, so to speak, and a sympathy--an inseparable bond of good will has always existed so as to render the loss of today a public one. Our people have always taken a deep concern in matters appertaining to the interests of the College, just as the Brothers have in turn ever done their share in the material advancement of Bay St. Louis, to say nothing of their moral and educational influence."*

Biloxi officials offered the Brothers $15,000 if they would relocate St. Stanislaus College there, but the Brothers had many emotional ties to the Bay. In August when Br. Felix opened construction bids, he was disappointed for they far exceeded expectations. *The Sea Coast Echo* had projected the new buildings to cost more than $100,000 and to bring much work to the area. Even though he was hard pressed for time, Br. Felix boldly rejected all bids, not just once but twice. He hired as general supervisor Mr. Charles Sanger, a local contractor who had worked for the College before and who was presently constructing a large temporary study hall. Sanger figured he could complete all work for about $50,000. He employed excellent subs: Gaston Gardebled of Bay St. Louis for the carpentry and John O'Leary for the masonry and plastering.

Just five days after Br. Felix laid the first brick on September 19, 1903, a local workers' strike for higher wages stalled the project. Undaunted, Sanger imported laborers from Alabama. They could not afford the fixed tourist prices for lodging in Bay St. Louis, so the College adapted its large bathhouses for them. To motivate the workers, Br. Felix treated them to kegs of beer when they met deadlines. Work progressed rapidly. Students moved into the classrooms in February. And on March 19, exactly six months after work had commenced, all the buildings were completely finished. Total cost of construction was about $52,000 for all three buildings, with another $25,000 going towards the most modern equipment available. The College was once again the pride of the Bay.



Sketch by Freret's successors, Diboll & Owen Architects, in 1903 for the three main buildings of St. Stanislaus College shows great similarity to Freret's 1891 sketch printed on page 19, with identical background and foreground.

Fundraising Falls Short, Land Mortgaged

Faced with financing construction of a new college building, Br. Felix sought new ways to raise funds. In August of 1903 with the memory of the June fire which destroyed the Old College Buildings and the magnificent Exhibition Hall still fresh in the mind of the public, Br. Felix sent a circular letter to the graduates, old scholars, and friends of the school. In it he solicited subscriptions for the erection of a New Hall, to be known as the St. Stanislaus Memorial Hall. It was the first time that the College alumni had been approached for money. It was a bold undertaking and would have succeeded had Br. Felix had time to organize a sustained drive. In 1903 there was no alumni association to turn to for help. Due to lack of funds, the building of the Hall was delayed until 1908.

Br. Isidore, provincial, tried to help finance construction by selling St. Vincent's School in Mobile to the parish, but the Bishop there blocked the sale, informing the provincial that he could only sell the school back to the diocese and for the same price paid 33 years earlier.

Pressed for funds, Br. Felix mortgaged most of the St. Stanislaus property for a sum of $30,000. On November 18, 1903, acting for the Board of Trustees, Wm. Edw. Hoffman (Br. Felix) signed six notes of $5,000 each, payable annually for six years with 5.5% interest to Mercier Realty and Investment Co. of New Orleans. Thus, with help from the province, $36,800 from insurance, and the mortgage, Br. Felix was able to pay his laborers on schedule.

ART. IX. It is hereby mutually agreed between the parties hereto that the sum to be paid by the Owner to the Contractor for said work and materials shall be $19940.00/xx Nineteen thousand nine hundred & forty 00/100 dollars to be divided up as follows.

The Brickwork 15900.00

The Cementwork 1350.00

The Plastering 2690.00

* *

In Witness Whereof, the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written. This Contract executed in duplicate

In presence of

Chas. Sanger

John Pearse O'Leary SEAL

St. Stanislaus College SEAL

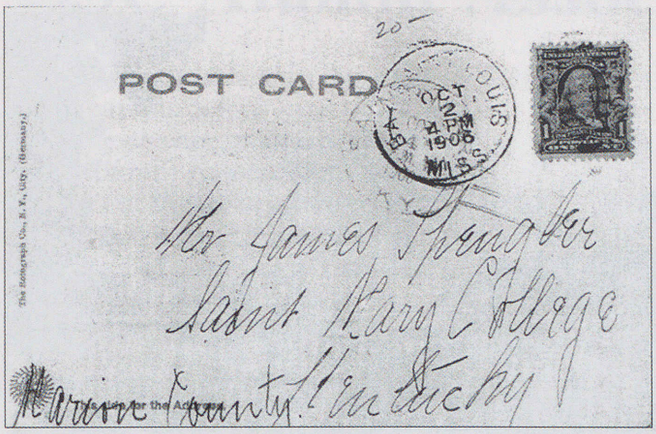
per Bro. Felix, President SEAL

On August 24, 1903, Br. Felix signed a contract for the brickwork, plastering, and cement work with John P. O'Leary, witnessed by Charles Sanger, superintendent. O'Leary agreed to complete all of the brick work in 75 working days from September 7.

On July 21, 1903, Br. Felix deposited $27,000 in a special College Building Fund with Hancock Bank. In a notebook, he kept records of all of the building expenses. The $57,804.93 total for the three main buildings included site preparation and construction of temporary buildings as well. In addition to the three main buildings, Br. Felix built a new infirmary for $2,995, had another artesian well dug, and constructed an iron fence in front of the new College.

Beer		5.60
Miscellaneous		64.65
Architects	Diboll and Owen	2500.00
Chas Sanger	Superintendent	801.33
	Cost of Three Front Buildings	57804.93
Infirmary -	Chas. Sanger	2995.00
Artesian Well -	Bon F. Markey	442.64
Well		500.00
Cistern	Caldwell & Co	264.45
Iron Fences	Stewart Iron Co	387.40
Closet		905.00
		5494.49

Penny postcard mailed from Bay St. Louis on October 2, 1906, shows the new College without any trees in front, only electric power poles and a black wrought iron fence that replaced the white picket fence along Front Street.





Prefect's Diary Shows Spunky Spirit

Brother Florimond Frank, senior prefect, recorded in his 1903-04 diary fascinating details of a prefect's life during a year of great adaptation. With good humor, energy, and total dedication, he and other Brothers helped the students survive a year full of surprises and challenges. Students lived in summer beach cottages on Front Street a few blocks from the school and the prefects escorted them back and forth daily. Below are a few excerpts:

Sept. 19, '03 First brick laid by Br. Felix, President of the College. Cottages have been occupied since Sept. 15 by the following brothers: *Avondale*, Jude & Alfred; *Belle Vue*, Burke & Florimond, *Nellie's Villa*, Mathias & Lambert; *Laura's Villa*, L. Felix & Ludovic.

Sept. 25 Beds arrive, but no springs. Resolved that boys are to sleep on slats and iron bars.

Oct. 6 Boys arrive from New Orleans accompanied by Burke & Lambert. There are 113 places occupied at the first supper.

Oct. 20 Boys are hilarious over their first night on springs.

Oct. 23 Boys today had their first bath in the new bath house. Water from the cistern near the kitchen is insufficient to supply all the tubs. Four boys only can go in at once.

Oct. 24 Finished bathing all the boys of senior department. Boys were called out during school to bathe.

Nov. 2 After having worked the whole crowd of large boys for two weeks burning the baseball and football grounds in order to destroy rock-a-chaws, we completed our work today by erecting goals. Old Democrat, a mule that has seen service the past 30 or 40 years, tried to haul pine straw from the woods or grove close by, but the poor beast was soon played out. So the boys took the wagons in charge, hitched themselves up to the shafts and pulled and tugged while Old Democrat sat by winking and blinking and most probably thinking of the trick he had played on the good nature of the boys.

Nov. 5 Finished lining gridiron. My shoes and pants are in a terrible fix from the effects of the lime. I think the boys stole the lime with which I marked the campus--must have been taken from the bricklayers who are working on the college.

Weather very threatening. Boys move to cottages in double-quick time.

Nov. 14 The brick-layers this afternoon finished the two wings and were treated by Br. Felix to two kegs of beer. I got my share of the amber-hued liquid.

Dec. 9 Yesterday I took the boys over to the Drug Store where they made purchases of cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, paper, matches, candy, oranges, peanuts, and a thousand other little things that boys enjoy on a long walk. We walked to the end of Main St. to Bayou Choctaw and the Jourdan River.

1904

Jan. 18 Boys left the College Dec. 22 and 23 giving me quite a relief by their absence. When I returned from the train depot on the 23rd, I counted those boys who remained and found I had only *"sweet sixteen."* We stayed in the new infirmary for the holidays.

March 31 Surprised students told to go to the cottages and disjoin their beds, pack their clothes, so all could sleep in the new dormitory that night. I got very little sleep as it was my first attempt at dormitory work.

May 1 Our baseball team left this morning at 9 o'clock for Scranton. The boys are very enthusiastic over their President Br. Felix because he permits them to travel as baseball players. I announced at half past five that the score was 32 to 2 in favor of the College. A mighty cheer went up and it was quickly decided to have a torch light procession to the train on which the team was to arrive. Old Democrat and his cart were decorated and banners prepared.

Rear view of St. Stanislaus College's main buildings dedicated by Bishop Thomas Heslin of Natchez in June 1904. This photo was taken in April 1904 for the College catalog by Charles A. Butler, a photographer and artist in Bay St. Louis.



Golden Jubilee Celebrated in Style, 1904

St. Stanislaus College celebrated its Golden Jubilee, June 21-22, 1904, beginning with a solemn high Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf. Prof. John A. Hemmersbach directed the school choir and orchestra in rendering Roswig's *Mass in G.* Br. Edward Clavel played the trombone and Br. Louis-Felix Sauvat, the violin. Bishop Thomas Heslin preached an eloquent sermon, praising what he declared to be the Brothers' *"most magnificent educational work."* He lauded their *"progressiveness in the face of great misfortune"* and went on to express confidence that through the Brothers' *"earnest and untiring labor in the cause of education,"* St. Stanislaus College would continue to *"survive the vicissitudes of the time to grow and increase in strength."*

The largest crowd ever packed into in St. Joseph Academy Hall the night of June 21 for commencement exercises during which the graduating class presented the historical drama *The Dodge of Venice.*

The next morning college degrees were conferred on the ten jubilee graduates. After the awarding of medals and premiums, Bishop Heslin dedicated the new college buildings. Honored at the dedication was the school's first president, eighty-one year old Br. Athanasius, the sole survivor of the first five missionaries to the US in 1841. Br. Isidore, provincial and past president of St. Stanislaus, presented a brief history of the Brothers and their school in Bay St. Louis in relating the life of Br. Athanasius.

Special Loop to Train Depot Enhances Telegraphy Course

With the cooperation of the L&N Railroad, St. Stanislaus College enhanced its telegraphy course in 1904, giving a new emphasis to its elective program for commercial students. Superintendent Charles Marshall of the Railroad had a special loop erected from the L&N Depot to the College which gave Br. Francis Tyler's students a direct hands-on approach to the latest equipment in the world of communication.

Other electives courses included stenography, one hour daily; typewriting, one-half hour daily; drawing, one-half hour daily; penmanship, two lessons per week, and music, two lessons per week and daily practice for one hour. Students in regular courses could elect one or more of the above studies, with consent of parents or guardians, as supplementary work.

Far from the world of computers yet to be invented, the 42 students in Br. Sylvius Loubiere's 1916-17 typewriting classes shown on the right were more than content with their state-of-the-art Remingtons.



SSC Alumni Association Formed, 1908

SSC graduates who returned applications before June of 1908 became charter members of the SSC Alumni Association. The objects of the association as listed in its first constitution of 1908 have not changed over the years:

1st *To preserve and increase the filial affection which former students bear to their Alma Mater, and to encourage them to further its interests as far as lies in their power.*

2nd *To renew and perpetuate friendships of younger days.*

3rd *To provide its members with the advice and help of sincere and trustworthy friends.*

Members of the Association included graduates and former students of St. Stanislaus College. By right of graduation, alumni were received as members on application. All other students were admitted by a majority vote at the annual meetings. In its early years, annual meetings and banquets were usually held in New Orleans on the Sunday preceding Mardi Gras.

As the school got heavily involved in development, the Alumni Association played a crucial role in organizing the various classes and soliciting funds. Also, the Association has sponsored annual reunions for jubilee classes.

In 1972 the SSC Alumni Association inaugurated the Hall of Fame to honor outstanding graduates and others connected with the school who by their exemplary lives have given witness to the values taught at St. Stanislaus College.

Alumni Association Presidents

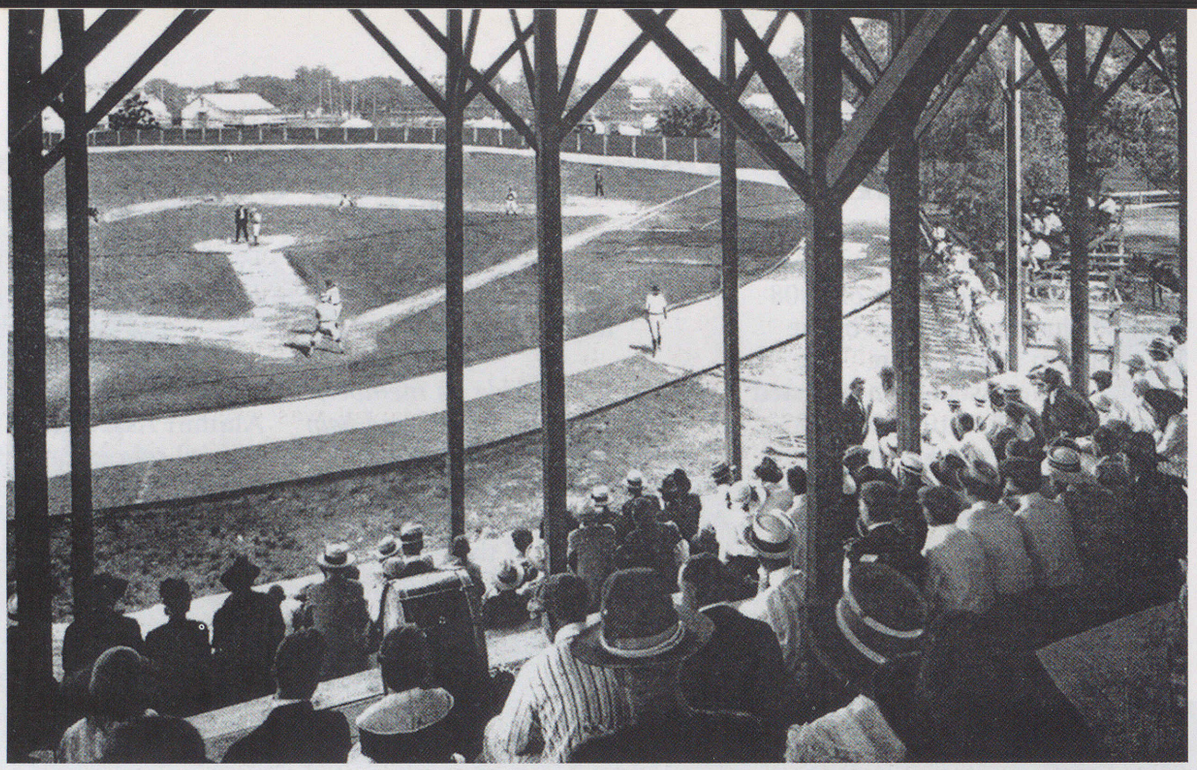
1908 Charles Engle '93
1909 Louis Mestier '72
1910 Charles Tassin '98
1913 Auguste Claverie '77
1929 Jean Claverie '71
1932 Albert Koorie '20
1934 Irwin Shirer '17
1941 Brittmar Landry '21
1947 Michael Irwin '16
1948 Marion Wolfe '23
1950 Walter Gex '24
1952 Berchmans Wilbert '23
1953 Walter Gex '24
1954 George Seuzeneau '27
1955 William App '35
1957 Edmond Brignac '48
1960 William Foster '31
1961 Earle Christenberry '45
1963 Lawrence Vallon '31
1964 Warren Carver '29
1966 Andrew Martinolich '46
1971 Vincent Liberto '51
1973 Gerard Schoen '47
1975 David Assaf '40
1977 Joseph Killeen '44
1979 James T LaNasa '47
1990 Earle Christenberry '45
1997 Ray Sheehy '48
1999 Michael Gemelli '69
2000 Joseph Monti '70



Eight Alumni presidents gathered at SSC in 1974 to place a plaque listing past Association presidents in the school hallway: Larry Vallon '31, Berch Wilbert '23; Earle Christenberry '45, Jerry Schoen '47, Warren Carver '29, Bill Foster '31, Andy Martinolich '46, and Dr. Vincent Liberto '51.



Distinguished SSC alumni pose for a photo after their induction into the first SSC Hall of Fame March 11, 1972. Seated are John Scafide '29, mayor of Bay St. Louis for 16 years; and Harry "Wop" Glover '28, Tulane star athlete earning four letters in one year. Standing are Col. Felix "Doc" Blanchard '42, All-American and Heisman Trophy winner; Henry "Zeke" Bonura '27, professional baseball star; Marchmont Schwartz '27, All-American at Notre Dame; and Dr. Norbert Carnovale '50, renowned musician.



Baseball grandstands built in 1914 in College Park, an eight-acre area a half of mile behind the school

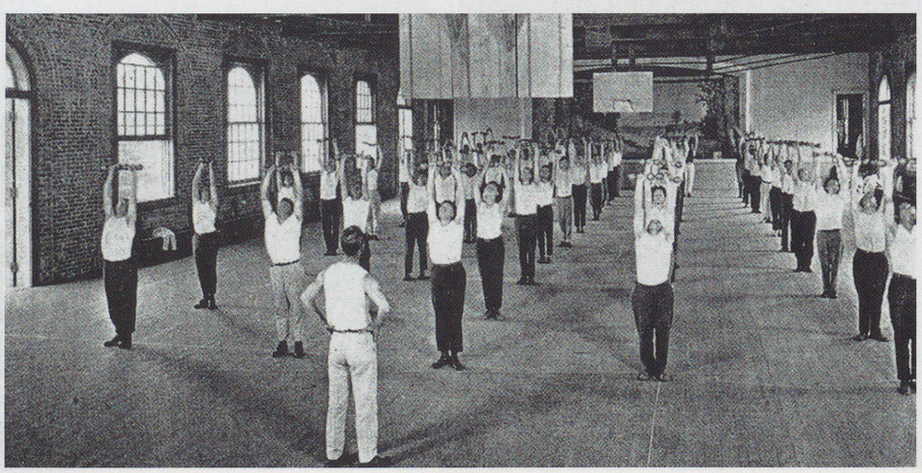
Pavilion Enclosed for Gym

Baseball Grandstands Seat 1,000 Fans

Br. Isidore Balmadier, finishing his term as provincial, returned to St. Stanislaus as president in 1913. Student interest in athletics demanded better facilities. Ever since 1903 when SSC first *"crossed bats with the Bay's picked nine,"* the baseball team had been quite successful against area teams, drawing large crowds of spectators. In 1913 the SSC team was the undefeated champion of the prep schools of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Br. Isidore arranged with some local groups in 1914 to construct grandstands in SSC's College Park to seat 1,000 spectators in exchange for letting the local clubs use the field upon request.

SSC's 1913 basketball team claimed the Gulf Coast Prep Championship, and the team needed a gym to use for practice in winter and bad weather. So in 1914 Br. Isidore closed in the large 125x50 foot open-sided pavilion that had been built next to the school in 1908. With its 17-foot ceiling, the renovated building served well as a gymnasium for physical education and as an auditorium. A wooden floor was installed along with basketball goals and gymnastic equipment. At one end, a large stage was constructed and equipped with drop curtains and sets of artistic scenery.

On the campus near the school, dirt tennis courts were laid out as well as a track, giving St. Stanislaus a complete athletic complex. All that was lacking in 1914 was a full-time coach.



Interior of the pavilion after the 1914 renovation that closed it in with brick walls and large arched windows. At the far end, the stage used for drama, assemblies, and graduation ceremonies can be seen. In this photo, Coach Forster Commagere drills the seniors in calisthenics. Hired in 1915, Coach Commagere initiated a physical education program for all students and a special conditioning program for all athletes.

125 Students Ride Out 1915 Hurricane

The Sea Coast Echo of October 9, 1915 reported that *"no brother, scholar or employee met with the slightest personal injury"* during the hurricane that hit Bay St. Louis on September 29, 1915. It was a novel experience for most of the 125 resident students, all of whom remained on campus. Larger boys, provided with a pillow and blanket, slept on the floor of the pavilion. They enjoyed the experience, and before 6:00 a.m., they were playing basketball on the new courts. Smaller boys, nestled three or four to a bed, found shelter in the infirmary building which was protected by the front buildings that had been evacuated.

Material damage to St. Stanislaus was minimal compared to that of most beachfront buildings. Much of the city's seawall was swept away because it was not filled in behind like that of the College. The College lost tiles from the slate roofs on the main buildings, its 1,000-foot pier, and the wrought iron fence along Front Street. A cement retaining wall replaced the fence.

Photo of Front Street after the Hurricane of 1915 shows how SSC's seawall survived and protected it from severe damage.





Destroyed Pier Quickly Rebuilt

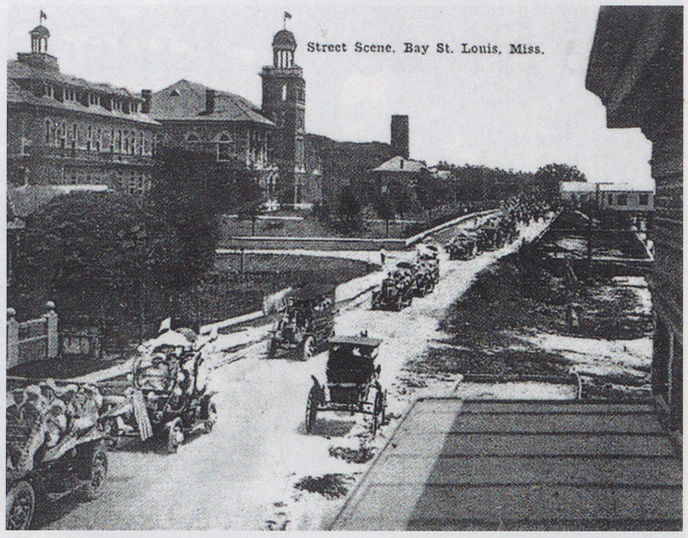
After the 1915 hurricane, the College rebuilt the 1,000 foot-long pier, identical to the old one constructed in 1893 with a large bath house and four platforms with benches.

In the photo on the left from the 1921 SSC catalog, students enjoy bathing in the Bay while Brothers supervise from the new pier. This pier built in 1915 served the faculty and students well until the hurricane of 1947 destroyed it.

Town Supports Athletics

Coach Commagere had the knack of getting others involved in athletics. He brought excitement to the city of Bay St. Louis by hosting major sports events at the College, and recruiting the Mayor and other prominent townspeople to officiate at ceremonies. Even though he personally was by no means ostentatious, Commagere promoted events with much publicity and fanfare, pointing out the many benefits to local businesses.

The 1911 photo on the right shows a parade of automobiles passing in front of the College campus, site of the city's 4th of July celebration. The parade was typical of those that Coach Commagere organized to promote the Five Mile Runs in 1915 and 1916. The town loved him and responded generously to support his programs which benefited the College and the city.



Commagere, A Coach for All Seasons

As the first full-time coach hired by St. Stanislaus College in 1915, Forster Commagere did for the Athletic Department what John Hemmersbach had done for the Music Department. He put St. Stanislaus on the athletic map of the South. A coach for all seasons, he trained student athletes in football, baseball, basketball, track, and cross country. Before his arrival, SSC students had played other schools and clubs only in baseball and basketball.

Coach Commagere got the local citizens involved in the College athletics. Almost every front page of the *Sea Coast Echo* carried several articles on the school's athletic program. Under the auspices of the College Athletic Association and the Southern Association Amateur Athletic Union, which he served as an officer, Coach Commagere sponsored two Five-Mile Runs in Bay St. Louis. In 1915 and 1916, he invited high schools and colleges throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, drawing big schools such as Mississippi State, the University of Alabama, Tulane, and LSU, as well several athletic dignitaries to help officiate. With much fanfare and publicity, he organized a parade of automobiles to escort the athletes through town.

Later that season, Bay St. Louis witnessed it first track meet, the first that SSC took part in. In May of 1916, he helped organize the first SSC Athletic Association to involve local parents in the program.



Coach Commagere, right, chats with Coach Denis Pete Burge in 1938, the year that Br. Peter Basso returned to SSC as president and brought Forster back to coach baseball and track.

One newspaper reported that *"No prep-school has ever accomplished in these parts what St. Stanislaus did in 1915-1916. This was SSC's first year in athletics and they won hands down the South Championship in baseball and basketball and defeated with ease every school in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in track meets and all this with men who had never taken part in athletics before, with the exception of Nathan Tycer, by far the greatest athlete in Dixie."*

During his 13 years as head coach at SSC, from 1915 to 1928, Forster Commagere brought many honors to the school with his championship teams in the four major sports. Much more importantly, he was a gentleman who instilled in his athletes the true values of SSC: *"Sincerity, Sportsmanship, and Courtesy."* For that reason, Coach Forster Commagere was among the first to be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in May 1972.

In June 1972 Mayor Warren Carver '29 dedicated Commagere Park, 12 acres of College property on the corner of Bookter and St. Francis streets which SSC lets the city use for athletic purposes.

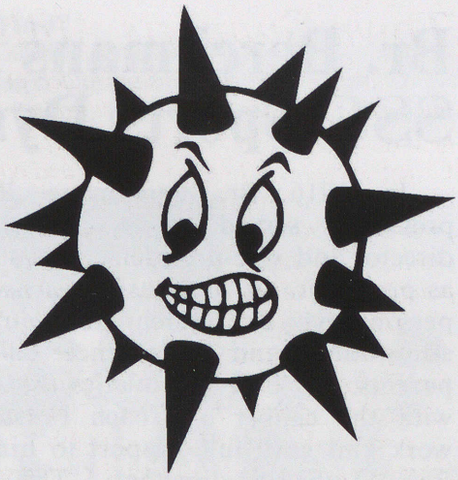
The *Rock-A-Chaw* Name

In 1916 the newly organized St. Stanislaus varsity football team became known as the *Rock-A-Chaws.* Credit for coining the title belongs to Br. Macarius Pierce, SSC principal, who organized a Rooters Club in 1916 to cheer for the team. Within a few years, the name Rock-A-Chaws was used for all SSC athletes, and the rock-a-chaw became the school mascot.

Rock-a-chaw comes from an old Choctaw word meaning devil grass, and it refers to the pesky little sand burrs that abounded on campus before the lawns were cultivated. For years College students conscientiously removed the cockleburs from their playing fields where the prolific prickly weeds sprung up naturally in the sandy soil that was ideal for them. Sometimes SSC students dragged woolen blankets across the fields before a game to pick up the rock-a-chaws that stuck with their small sharp spikes. A spirited bonfire then followed.



Coach Commagere's 1st Rock-A-Chaw football team of 1916 won its opening game against the New Orleans Ramblers 82-0: Edward Curtis, Edward Reed, Edward McKinney, Russel Manieri, Nathan Tycer, Oliver Dabezies, Richard Martinez, Frank Maher, Maurice Begneaud, Milton Blanchet, Alwin Ansley, Richard Gannon, Emmet Neelis, Graham Moore, Milton Reisch, James Miazza, Victor Lambou, Burris Shannon, Melvin Rosenblat, Frank Lopez, Sidney Wolf, Nicholas Lala, Roy Kelly, and Farrel Tircuit.



From Pink & Green To Red & Black

When student athletes organized the St. Stanislaus Athletic Association in 1903 in order to play baseball against outside teams, they chose as their colors pink and green. There were no organized leagues, so games were played by challenge and invitation. Players also invited their lady friends to view the games and to wear the special team colors which were chosen with them in mind. SSC fans wore pink and green.

As organized school sports developed, team players began wearing uniforms depicting the school colors. When St. Stanislaus started to compete against other schools in basketball and track, pink and green were not considered appropriate colors for uniforms showing a manly spirit. So in 1915 SSC changed its school colors to red and black.

SSC Principal Pens "Ode to the Rock-A-Chaws"

Below are three of the several stanzas written by Br. Macarius Pierce and read by him at the banquet for the 1916 football team to the delight of all. *The Sea Coast Echo* published his poem.

There's a favored spot with a golden shore
Where the waves splash music forevermore.
The creeping grass enamels with green
The banks of that shore with its brightest sheen.
The breezes that blow from the Southern clime
Waft through the oaks with a softened rime.
The tempting cool green invites you to pause.
But alas, you will feel the sharp *Rock-a-chaws.*

What are they? 'Tis my task to tell--
They've got the meanness of the devils from hell.
They're the most consistent, persistent pest,
That puts a man's patience to the test.
They lie in wait with a fiendish glee
For the innocent hand or foot or knee.
And they stick with an affection denying all laws,
The rancorous, cantankerous *Rock-a-chaws.*

In this favored spot stands a College grand
Famed for its athletes throughout the land.
Its football squad is a husky bunch
With brawn and brains--I have a hunch.
And casting around for a name to present
The qualities which to their enemies meant
Confusion, disaster, and horrid death's jaws,
They hit on the name of *"The Rock-A-Chaws."*

Br. Berchmans Begins SSC Sports Dynasty

In 1916 Br. Berchmans Roy, who had previously served at St. Stanislaus as athletic director and vice-president, returned to the College as president. A brilliant scholar with an outgoing personality, Br. Berchmans quickly won the admiration and confidence of students and parents. A lover of athletics, he was enthusiastic with the caliber of Coach Forster Commagere's work and gave full support to him and Br. Peter Basso, athletic director. The three of them established a progressive, innovative, and creative program based on solid coaching and good conditioning. Varsity athletes reported to school ten days early for training camps. Calisthenics and gymnastics were required of all students.

Student interest in sports soared so high that school authorities printed in the school handbook a reminder that *"Undue attention to athletics at the expense of studies is not permitted; while, on the other hand, students are advised, expected, even strongly recommended, to take part in healthy outdoor sport."* By 1924 ninety-five percent of SSC's 300 students took part in organized athletics. Brothers Edmund O'Hara and Peter Basso provided younger students good, solid coaching. Junior teams at SSC included five in football, fifteen in basketball, ten in baseball, and 100 underclassmen taking part in track. Each team played a ten-game season.

Winning became such a tradition that finding opponents soon became problematic, especially on the prep school level. Even with its small enrollment in the upper grades, SSC competed well against large freshman squads from Holy Cross, LSU, Spring Hill, Tulane, Loyola, and Baylor.



Southern Basketball Champions 1916-17
Jacob Hessinger, captain and forward; forwards Andrew Wilbert, Oliver Aabezies, Richard Gannon; center, Nathan Tycer; guards Edward Curtis, Graham Moore, Alwin Ansley, and Gordon Reddy

BOLD ADAPTATIONS

1903 SSC competes in first outside athletic event: beats the Bay's baseball team 16-9
Work begins on new school
New infirmary finished

1904 Telegraphy course offered
Golden Jubilee of College celebrated in June
New school buildings dedicated
Eighty-three Brothers make Bay retreat

1905 Last yellow fever epidemic

1908 College constructs pavilion
SSC Alumni Association formed

1911 Baseball & basketball teams win Gulf Coast Championship

1914 Grandstands to seat 1,000 built at SSC College Park
Pavilion converted to gym, auditorium

1915 Hurricane damages College
Coach Foster Commagere hired
SSC hosts 5-Mile Runs
SSC plays first basketball match
Red and black replace pink and green as school colors

1916 SSC Athletic Association formed
School hosts first track meet in Bay St. Louis
Basketball, baseball, track teams win Championship of South
First *Rock-A-Chaw* football team

1919 Undefeated football team outscores opponents 254-28

1920 Properties purchased on Union St. and near athletic fields

1921 Bronze statue of Sacred Heart in front of school dedicated

1923 New gym, auditorium built
SSC becomes college prep
Lyceum Course offered

Southern Prep School Track Champions, 1916-17

Coach Forster Commagere, Cyril Claverie (captain), Nathan Tycer, Richard Gannon, Graham Moore, Edward Curtis, Frank Lopez, Alwin Ansley, Robert Stulb, Arno Steinweg, Sidney Brown, Joseph Constantine, William Stack, Walter Powers, Edward Reed, Oliver Dabezies, Nichlas Lala, Paul Maestri, Gordon Reddy, Fritz Schutt, Richard Martinez, Milton Phillips, and Joseph Hymel





Southern Interscholastic Baseball Champions, 1916-17

Coach Forster Commagere, Andrew Wilbert (captain, pitcher, second base), Jacob Hassinger (first base), Alphonse Ramond (shortstop), Graham Moore (third base), James Miazza (catcher), Irwin Shirer (pitcher), Joseph Hymel (pitcher), Richard Gannon (second base), Elmer Hymel (outfield), Sidney Wolf (outfield), Nathan Tycer (outfield), Edward Reed (outfield), and Alwin Ansley (outfield)

Sacred Heart Statue Dedicated in 1923

Standing at the main entrance of St. Stanislaus College since 1923 when it was placed on a pedestal there, the huge bronze statue of the Sacred Heart commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart by Rev. Andre Coindre in Lyons, France, September 30, 1821. Bishop John Gunn blessed the statue in an afternoon ceremony at the close of the Brothers' retreat at the Bay on August 5, 1923. After giving a brief history of the Brothers, Bishop Gunn praised the more than 100 Brothers in attendance for their capable and thorough work that always met the highest standards of excellence.

On the front of the marble pedestal were inscribed the names of the deceased Brothers who had served at St. Stanislaus since its founding in 1854. The statue has always stood in front of the College, facing the Bay. *The Sea Coast Echo* of August 11, 1923, commented *"The Brothers of the Sacred Heart and St. Stanislaus College are indeed landmarks in Bay St. Louis, well nigh seventy years here. The college and its work have well served as a beacon of light to the thousands of youth sent out on the sea of life, equipped to steer clear of the rocks and battle the vicissitudes that must come as may to all. And our people view the success of the Brothers and their work not only with supreme satisfaction but with a pride akin to that love and veneration that recesses from the deepest depths of the heart."*

Over the years, this statue of the Sacred Heart has become symbol of protection for St. Stanislaus against hurricanes. High winds during the Hurricane of 1947 turned the statue 45 degrees on its base, but it remained upright. In the 200 mile an hour winds of Hurricane Camille in 1969, the statue remained firmly on its base even though the school buildings behind it suffered extensive damage. When those buildings which had been constructed in 1903 were demolished, the time capsule in the cornerstone was placed in the pedestal of the statue. That capsule contains coins of 1900, a local newspaper of 1904, and a list of the faculty and student body of 1903-04. A new pedestal was built for the statue in 1972 when the present school building was constructed, and a second time capsule listing the names of the faculty and students of 1972 was placed in it.



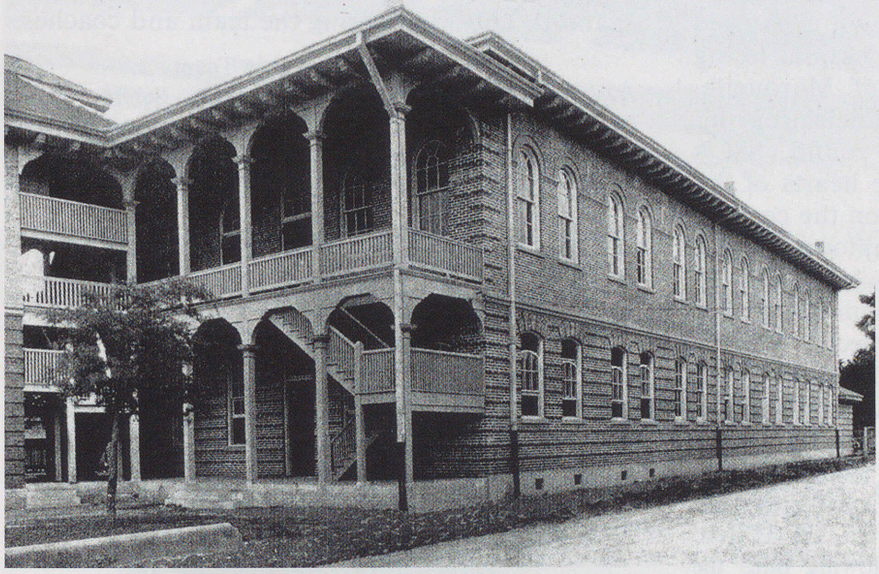
Bronze statue of the Sacred Heart in a 1972 photo taken shortly after the dedication of the new school building that year. The "old gym" of 1923 is in the background.

SSC Changes to High School College Prep

President of SSC from 1918 to 1924, Br. Lambert Fairfield, boldly adapted the school to the changing times. Following World War I, most high schools added two grades, ending with the twelfth. Better students then went on to college. Most of SSC's 26 graduates in 1923 had in fact enrolled in a large college or university to complete their studies. The St. Stanislaus college degree was no longer a final degree, and the faculty had designed courses to prepare students for further studies.

Newspaper ads during the summer of 1923 announcing the start of the 70th session of St. Stanislaus College, referred to the school as *"a boarding and day school offering preparatory and high school courses for young men and boys."* While keeping the title St. Stanislaus College, the school would grant high school diplomas instead of college degrees as it had since 1871.

Effects of the change were hardly noticeable among faculty and students. Scholastic matter remained basically the same, but in 1923 the curriculum was divided into courses for four years of grammar school and four years of high school. Seniors could choose between scientific or commercial courses.



The 1923 gymnasium-auditorium bordering on Union Street joined one of the three main school buildings by means of a gallery. Its red brick, slate roof, and curved arches blended in perfectly with the school's architectural style.

New Gymnasium

In 1923 Messrs. Diboll & Owen, architects, again teamed up with Charles Sanger of Bay St. Louis to construct a new building for a cost of $54,000. The new 125 x 64 foot two-story structure blended in perfectly with their 1903 buildings. An auditorium-gymnasium occupied the entire second floor. The basketball court was one of the finest of the time in the South.

The first floor contained recreation rooms, two classrooms to accommodate the increased enrollment, bathrooms, and dressing rooms for the athletes.

Plans were to convert the old pavilion into a new dining hall.

SSC Offers Lyceum Course Open to Public

As a special addition to the 1923-24 curriculum, Br. Peter Basso, vice-president and athletic director at St. Stanislaus, had the athletic department cosponsor a five-part Lyceum Course of performing arts open to the general public as well as to SSC students. Put on under the auspices of White & Myers Lyceum Agency of Kansas City, the national program included a Scottish Review by baritone Howard Russel; Earnest Powell, an orator and wit; the Gerhardt Musical Duo; the Croatian Tamburica Orchestra; and Guilia Adams, reader and entertainer.

Local patrons could purchase $2 season tickets for the five nighttime performances or pay 50 cents at the door. The Lyceum Course met with rave reviews and much appreciation from the townspeople, some of whom were still smarting from the city losing its status as a college town. Opening the Lyceum Course to the general public helped ease the transition.

The Sea Coast Echo published on January 19, 1924, concluded, *"We owe a debt of gratitude to the faculty of SSC, a debt of appreciation. We must express our gratification at the fact that the lyceum seems to be an established factor in the college and in our community life, for a similar course has already been contracted for next year. It is not every town the size of Bay St. Louis that can enjoy such advantages."*

Grand Sendoff, Great Return

SSC Cops Sportsmanship Trophy in Chicago

More than 2,000 fans gathered at the L & N depot to send the St. Stanislaus basketball team off to Chicago on March 24, 1924. Led by Br. Peter Basso, athletic director, and Coach Forster Commagere, the eight players, who had been crowned Southern Catholic Champions, boarded the Pan-American Deluxe while the school band played *Dixie*. According to the local paper, *"It seemed the whole town was out for the occasion, old and young, big and little, mothers with babes in arms and toddling grandpas leaning on their sticks. Beautiful girls wearing the College colors flitted here and there, raising their voices in praise of the Rock-A-Chaws."*

Playing before a crowd of more than 10,000 in the finals at Loyola in Chicago, an exhausted SSC team finished second in the nation, losing 19-25 to the 16-member squad of Marquette. Dubbed the *Dixie Flashes* after defeating the most favored team in the first round, SSC's classy team from the Bay won the hearts of the crowd. The Rock-A-Chaws also won the coveted trophy for best sportsmanship among the 32 teams in the tournament. Mayor Dever of Chicago in making the presentation noted that not only did the school win all 24 secret votes of the officials but also the judges were so impressed by the Rock-A-Chaws' clean play that they decided to award the trophy to St. Stanislaus permanently rather than having it contested annually. The faculty and students were thrilled with the sportsmanship trophy for it verified nationally that the team indeed lived out the SSC motto: *"Sincerity, Sportsmanship, and Courtesy."*

April 2, 1924, was declared Rock-A-Chaw Day in Bay St. Louis, a holiday for all public and private schools. Hundreds of people met the team at the depot. After a pep rally and music by the band, a procession of more than 100 decorated cars headed by Mayor Webb led the team through town to the College. That night 1,200 fans packed into the new gym for a grand reception honoring the team and coaches.

1924 Championship Team

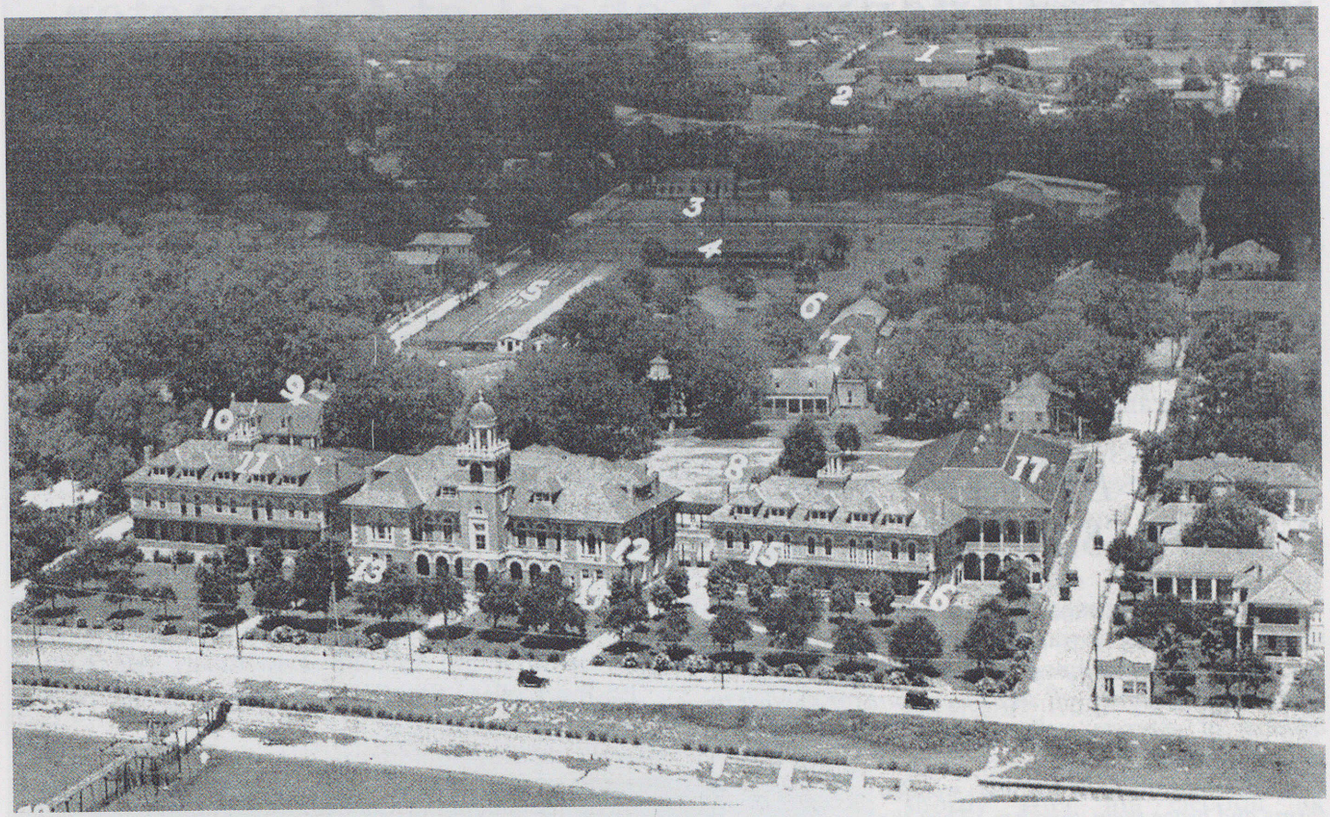
Top row: Charles Jaubert, Anthony Schiro, Coach Commagere, and Roger Haydel. First row: Norton Haas, Anthony Lanassa, Francis Martin (captain), Henry Bonura (all-tournament team), and Fred Welsch



Panoramic view of the first homecoming football game at St. Stanislaus College Park. The Rock-A-Chaws beat their arch rival Jefferson College of Convent, LA, 12 to 0. With the bleachers packed and overflowing onto the sidelines, many spectators, including the Bishop, viewed the game from their Dodge and Ford sedans, roadsters, and touring cars with which they lined the football field. Was this rumble seat party a precursor to tailgate parties?



Aerial view of the St. Stanislaus College campus complex taken in 1926 shows the "new" gym and auditorium, #17.



1. Rock-A-Chaw Park--Campus
2. L&N Train Station
3. St. Stanislaus Free Day School
4. Brothers' Cemetery
5. Vegetable Garden
6. Pecan Orchard
7. Dairy
8. Playground
9. Kitchen, Dining Room
10. Music Hall
11. Brothers' Quarters
12. Senior Dormitory
13. Senior Study Hall
14. Junior Study Hall
15. Junior Dormitory
16. Classrooms

First Homecoming in 1924 Called *Dads' & Grads' Day*

St. Stanislaus celebrated its first Dads' & Grads' Day November 23, 1924. According to a *Rock-A-Chaw* brochure published by Br. Edmund O'Hara's seniors, it was a special time for grads to renew friendships with Brothers and classmates, and to retell the escapades of their carefree days at St. Stanislaus. The day was also an opportunity for dads to meet with their sons' teachers.

More than 400 men rode a chartered train from New Orleans, while others "motored" to the Bay from surrounding states. The day's events included a parade through town, a tour of the campus, a barbecued lunch, a football game, and an evening reception and address by recently installed Bishop Richard Gerow in the school's new gym-auditorium.



Br. Peter Inspires School of Character

When Br. Peter Basso was named president of St. Stanislaus College in 1926, the faculty, students, and town rejoiced for he had proven himself to be a charismatic personality who strongly influenced all he met. First assigned to St. Stanislaus in 1908, Br. Peter, a popular young teacher and coach, became athletic director in 1912. As athletic director for 14 years as well as vice-president for six years from 1920 to 1926, he helped build academic and athletic programs renowned nationwide.

Serving another 14 years as president between 1926 and 1948, Br. Peter firmly established St. Stanislaus as a school of character and put it on the national map with his radio talks on the psychology of adolescent males. Invitations poured in from schools and civic clubs across the country for him to speak on what he called "boyology."

During Br. Peter's first term, enrollment soared, a summer camp was started in 1928, a new chapel and residence for the Brothers were completed in 1930, the athletic program continued to produce national stars, and the religious tone of the school remained strong.

An expert in public relations, Br. Peter sponsored Lyceum Courses for the townspeople, raised funds to take basketball teams to Chicago for national tournaments and the younger boys to Birmingham for the Toy Bowl, and hosted Boston College for the 1941 and '42 Sugar Bowls.

Br. Peter Exhorts Students To Form Solid Character

Below is a brief exhortation given by Br. Peter to the student body while he was president of St. Stanislaus:

Let us make a comparison that I know all of you will understand. You have all seen at one time or another the building of concrete walls or at least concrete foundations. You have observed that the workmen first build wooden forms and brace them together. Then the concrete mixture is poured in.

These forms represent the rules of discipline to which you are subjected. The soft concrete represents your character. How long will these forms remain there? Only until the concrete hardens enough so that the wall will stand of its own strength.

If these forms were not there, the concrete would run over the ground and form a shapeless mass that would be useless when it hardened. So the rules or the discipline remains just long enough for your character to form, to harden, to learn to stand alone.

But remember that the concrete mixture must be right. There are sand and gravel mixed with the right amount of cement before it is wet. Suppose the contractor forgot to put the cement in, or cheated on the amount of cement, so that the mixture was mainly sand and gravel. What would happen then when the wooden forms were removed? Maybe it would crumble away. That cement in the mixture represents the strength and sincerity of your character.

So be sure that you are made of the right kind of stuff--that you are fair and square and open, and then when the forms (the rules that hold you now) are removed, you will be able to stand alone. And you will be men of character!





Top: Br. Peter as a young coach with the 1916 basketball team.
Above: Br. Peter as president at St. Stanislaus surrounded by young boys in his office during his weekly Children's Hour in 1939.

Second 50 Years

Director-Presidents		VP-Principals	
1904	Br. Felix Hoffman		
1905	Br. Stanislaus Keating		
1913	Br. Isidore Balmadier		
1916	Br. Berchmans Roy		
1918	Br. Lambert Fairfield		
		1923	Br. Peter Basso
1924	Br. Macarius Pierce		
		1925	Br. Edmund O'Hara
1926	Br. Peter Basso		
		1927	Br. Robert Ryder
		1931	Br. Adelard Santerre
1932	Br. William Sharkey		
		1933	Br. Casimir Piskorowski
		1936	Br. Alexis Klee
1938	Br. Peter Basso		
		1942	Br. Linus Meyers
1944	Br. Casimir Piskorowski		
1946	Br. Peter Basso		
1948	Br. Alexis Klee		
		1949	Br. Gerard Gilbert
		1950	Br. Gerald Coridan
1951	Br. Celsus Craffey	1951	Br. William Sharkey
		1952	Br. Roland Smith
		1953	Br. Felician Fourrier
1953	Br. Roland Smith	1953	Br. Ashton Brisolara

President-Principal

Even before its charter as a Commercial College in 1870, St. Stanislaus had a president and a vice-president. The president directed the overall operation of the school and, until 1985, the Brothers' community as well. He was assisted by a vice-president took charge of the academic program, co-signed diplomas, and usually served as senior teacher or prefect of discipline.

Even after 1923 when SSC gave up its college status, it kept the president and vice-president structure. In 1934 SSC joined the Southern Association of Secondary Schools but still did not use the title principal. Br. Alexis Klee, vice-president of St. Stanislaus from 1936 to 1942, was the first at the school to use the title of principal. That was shortly after his election as chairman of the secondary schools' department of the National Catholic Educational Association in 1939.

Br. Peter's SSC Produces Star Student-Athletes

Br. Peter loved athletics and all the ceremony and rituals associated with a splendid sports program. His statement: *"Keep a boy interested in athletics and you keep him out of mischief"* summed up his major educational principle. His interest in athletics combined with the coaching of Forster Commagere brought them and St. Stanislaus national fame. Br. Peter served as president of the Southern Amateur Athletic Union, vice-president of the National Catholic Association, and board member of the Catholic Basketball tournament.

Many nationally known athletes during Br. Peter's time at SSC started as young boys at St. Stanislaus, coming under his influence as teacher, coach, athletic director, or president. Felix Blanchard '15, one of the first big names in athletics from SSC, after playing football for Tulane became a medical doctor and sent his son "Doc" to SSC. The 1917 class at SSC produced three student athletes of national fame. Edward Curtis, star of the mile run, represented the US at the Olympics in Belgium. Sidney Wolfe played quarterback for LSU and went on to become president of the Research Corporation in New York City. Nathan Tycer won the national title for the 561-lb. throw at the AAU in St. Louis in 1917 and finished third in the nation in all-around athletics. He went on to become a prominent district judge in Louisiana, and in 1976 SSC inducted him into its Hall of Fame.

Led by Br. Peter and Coach Commagere, the tradition of athletic excellence at SSC continued into the twenties, producing more nationally known athletes than any other prep school of the period. Among the famous football players were Johnny Soule '19, who played at West Point; Coty Rosenblath '20, All-Southern at Centenary; Sam Cerniglia '22, all-star at Loyola; Bill Cassidy '25, who played for Knute Rockne at Notre Dame; Marchmont Schwartz '27, Notre Dame's All-American back in 1930 and 1931 and member of the National Football Hall of Fame; Henry "Zeke" Bonura '27, stand-out at Loyola; Harry Glover '28, who starred for Tulane in the 1930 Rose Bowl and later coached at SSC; and John Scafide '29, also a Tulane star.

SSC produced two major league baseball players: Eddy Moore of the 1925 championship Pittsburgh team and Zeke Bonura who played with Chicago, the New York Giants, and the Washington Red Sox.

In track, Marion Wolfe '23 starred at SSC and then Tulane before getting his medical degree and serving as SSC's doctor. Br. Peter and Coach Commagere worked with two javelin stars, Milton "Hippo" Phillips '21 and Zeke Bonura '27. The latter won the national AAU title in San Francisco while a sophomore at SSC, setting a new record of 213' 10.5" in 1925.

Panoramic shot of the 1926-27 student body and faculty presents a magnificent view of the back of the school.



"Upward and Onward" Motto of Late '20s

School spirit soared in the late twenties and so did the enrollment. SSC enjoyed a great athletic reputation and sponsored teams on every level from Grades 4 - 12 to meet student desires to move *"upward and onward."* Br. Peter, as president, encouraged students to participate in a variety of school activities. He himself advised seniors in the Society of the Blessed Sacrament which he started for them.

Br. Cyril Gyori and Br. Theodore Desnoyer moderated two Altar Boys' Societies of more than 40 members each. Br. Robert Ryder guided 181 active members of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin. In addition to religious organizations, SSC sponsored several musical groups in the late '20s. Br. Oliver Solvas directed a concert orchestra of 28 boys, a special orchestra of 14, as well as a 20-piece brass band.

Boarders and day scholars belonged to the Altar Boy Societies in the 1920s. Day scholars, directed by Br. Cyril Gyori, served daily Mass at St. Stanislaus College chapel. The boarders, organized by Br. Theodore Desnoyers, served daily at Our Lady of the Gulf. Some of the 1926-27 Altar Boys pose with their moderators: Br. Theodore, top row left of center, and Br. Cyril, top row right of center.



Panoramic shot of 1927 shows the "new gym" of 1924 on the far left and the "old gym" of 1908 on the far right.





"Uncle Eddie": Brother, Teacher, Prefect, Coach

Br. Edmund O'Hara, shown at the left with his junior *Scorpions* of 1927, was affectionately called *Uncle Eddie.* During 37 years at SSC, 25 as prefect and coach, he won his students' hearts. Br. Edmund started the *Rock-A-Chaw* newspaper in 1932 and actively advised the Sodality and the Sidelines Club. In 1978 he was named to the SSC Hall of Fame.

Seniors Define School Motto and Spirit

The following article defining the motto and spirit of St. Stanislaus comes from the *Rock-A-Chaw* homecoming brochure of Nov. 3, 1929, published by the senior class under the guidance of Br. Edmund O'Hara. The seniors dedicated the issue to Br. Peter, College president, for *"his unfailing interest in our welfare and as an acknowledgment of his encouragement and assistance."*

The School of Character

"The above is our accepted motto, and we do our utmost to uphold it while we are at school and hope to practice it when our campus days are but memories.

"Each and every individual who has ever attended Stanislaus is well aware of the meaning S. S. C.--S*incerity, Sportsmanship, and Courtesy.*

"This spirit is exemplified in that ceaseless drive and *"never say die"* spirit which actuates all activities at school be they in the classroom, on the campus or upon the athletic field. That spirit prevails all about our institution; you breathe it, you live it--it is *"the stuff"* which has made Stanislaus what it is today--the finest Prep School in the South; one that is foremost in scholarship, athletics and character building.

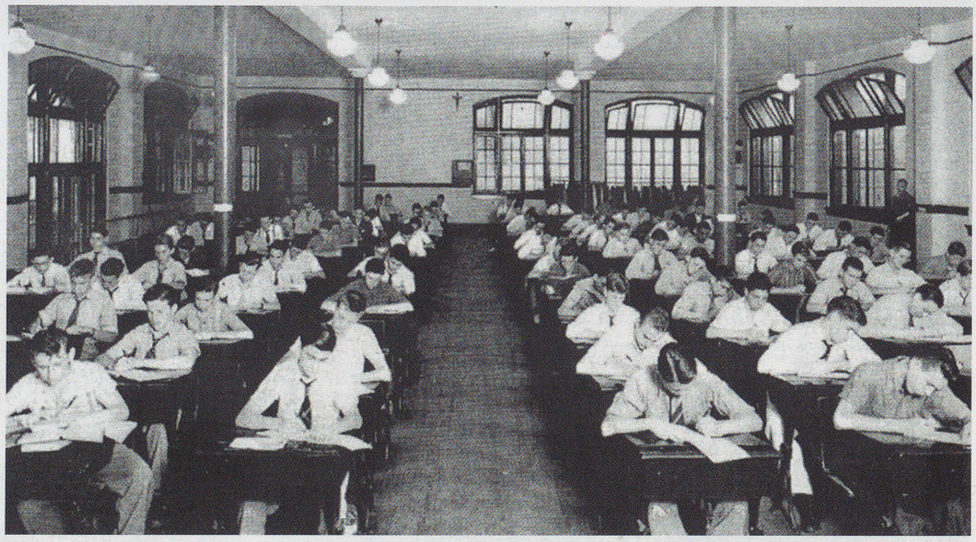
"Every son's father should be proud to send his son to Stanislaus, and every father's son should swell with pride as he enters the portals of this old institution and he should remain until he passes satisfactorily all the tests and obstacles that are placed in his way during his High School days. Then when he is finished and is out in the world he can do the most good for his *Alma Mater* by showing to the world he is a finished product of Stanislaus--a Gentleman."

1930 Chapel Fulfills Brothers' Dream of 1903

The 1930 chapel fulfilled the Brothers' 1903 dream for a permanent chapel that would allow the temporary chapel located on the second floor of the central building to be removed and the space utilized by the dormitory. By 1930 the number of resident students had increased to 190, so the additional dormitory space was very much needed. More significantly, the spacious size and beautiful design of the new chapel testified to the pre-eminence given to religion as the foundation of the education offered at SSC. Donors, especially among the alumni, came forward to help furnish the St. Stanislaus chapel which accommodated all 305 students in 1930.

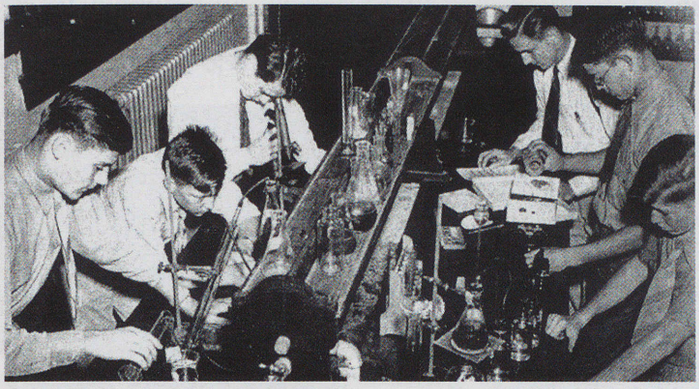


Two dozen ornate oak pews from the old chapel were transferred to the new one, and matching additional pews were purchased to fill the chapel. Even today the old oak pews in the present chapel bear the brass name plates of the donors as acknowledged in the 1914-1915 school catalog.



The new south wing also provided a large study hall for resident seniors. Single desks were so arranged that all light came from the left of the student, thus eliminating glare.





Two New Science Labs Allow Modern Methods

With two fully equipped laboratories for teaching chemistry and physics, the faculty at St. Stanislaus changed from their primary method of teaching science, the lecture and demonstration, to a hands-on approach. The old picture at the top left shows Br. Paul Couffort and students in the chemistry classroom of 1915. There Br. Paul lectured on atomic hypothesis and chemical reactions, giving demonstrations such as the preparation of hydrogen and oxygen, the electrolysis of water, and acid reactions.

The other photo on the left shows Br. Casimir Piskorowski's science students actively involved in an experiment in the 1930 chemistry lab--doing as well as observing. Similar changes in teaching methods took place in physics.

Chapel, South Wing Dedicated in 1930

Br. Peter scheduled the dedication of the chapel building to coincide with Homecoming and Dad's Day, November 2, 1930. According to an article printed in *The Times-Picayune* the next day, *"Hundreds of persons, dignitaries of the Catholic Church, alumni, parents of students and friends of the famous 'School of Character' joined in the festivities of the day"* to dedicate with Bishop R. O. Gerow *"the new $95,000 building, housing the magnificent chapel and several other departments of the college."* In his address, Bishop Gerow characterized the new three-story brick building with a basement, standing on the south side of the college campus, *"as a monument to the untiring work of Brother Peter and his associates, explaining that the Brothers would be forced to make many sacrifices to meet the indebtedness which was incurred in construction of the building."* The Brothers had issued 10-year mortgage bonds for $90,000 to finance the new building.



View of the chapel building from the campus side in 1930

In 1929 the old 1908 gym had been razed to make room for the new south wing which was built by Geary-Oakes Contractors. Mr. A. S. Montz, a New Orleans architect, designed the building with wide galleries on the north side and brick to match the main buildings.

The bottom floor housed a large senior study hall and fully equipped chemistry and physics labs. On the second floor was a spacious two-story chapel free of columns with a high vaulted ceiling. Wide, high windows on the bay and south sides as well as many double doors on the north side afforded much natural light and cool breezes. With the new chapel, the portion of the large boy's dormitory could be used as intended, affording more space for the 190 boarders in 1930. The second and third floors to the rear of the chapel in a mezzanine area served as living quarters for 17 of the 25 Brothers assigned to St. Stanislaus in 1930.

After a barbecue lunch in the quadrangle, the homecoming visitors witnessed a gridiron clash at the College stadium in which the Rock-A-Chaws clobbered the St. Aloysius Panthers from New Orleans, 28-0.



No. 3 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1932. VOL. 1

WELCOME DADS AND GRADS

HALLOWE'EN PARTY IS ENJOYED BY THE STUDENT BODY

Contests and Tricks Sponsored By Seniors.

(Piercy Stakelum)

The annual Hallowe'en Party given by the President and the Seniors was held in the Gym last Monday night. The party consisted of various games and was climaxed by refreshments served in the dining room.

The party started with the swing-

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

Dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory.

(J. C. Roland, Jr.)

"Purgatory," says our Catechism. "is a state in which the souls of the just after death are purified from the stains of sin still remaining, before they can enter heaven."

The Church teaches us that we may help these souls of our friends and benefactors by prayers, by the giving of alms, and especially by having Holy Mass offered for them. Not only do we pray for those in Purga-

"ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE PARENTS' CLUB"

Initial Meeting Called for Sunday, Nov. 6th.—Organization Open to Fathers, Mothers, And Guardians of Students.

(By Horace Thompson)

At the solicitation of many Parents, Brother William, The President of St. Stanislaus, has consented to the idea of an organization to be known as the Parents' Club. This

HOMECOMING AN ANNUAL EVENT SINCE 1924.

(John Bopp)

The annual observance of this great day at St. Stanislaus was first begun in 1924, when Brother Macarius was president of the school. The features of the day were then, even as they were up until a year ago, the barbecue and the football game. It so happened that in the first Homecoming and Dad's Day the opposing team was Jefferson. Of course, Stanislaus won that game. However, owing to the present financial depression, there will be no bar-

Students Start Newspaper, Win Awards

Assisted by Br. Edmund O'Hara, SSC students published the first issue of the school newspaper *The Rock-A-Chaw* October 7, 1932. Students named the paper *The Rock-A-Chaw* because *"under that name many a Stanislaus victory has been won."* The first issue boldly stated that the publication would be a regular bi-weekly school periodical *"second to none."*

Since its first year of publication in 1892, the Bay St. Louis weekly, *The Sea Coast Echo,* very graciously allowed SSC students to write a column called "College Echoes." In 1932 the students expanded their journalistic endeavors with their own newspaper. They wrote interesting articles, accompanied them with photographs in appealing layouts, and sold advertisements to sponsor the paper. Curious to modern readers, many issues had half-page ads promoting Chesterfield or Lucky Strike cigarettes. An article *"Briars Again in Vogue"* appeared in the April 8, 1933, *Rock-A-Chaw.* It reminded athletes in training that cigars and cigarettes were prohibited, but three pipefuls of tobacco a day were permitted, as well as Beechnut for chewing. Tobacco was not banned on the SSC campus until 1994.

Dedicated staff members lived up to the newspaper's goals, and in just a few years *The Rock-A-Chaw* began to win state and national awards. The 1935 and 1936 staff captured First Honors from the Catholic Press Association for its style, coverage, and originality. In 1937 the SSC staff won first honors from the prestigious Quill and Scroll Society which singled out the masthead with the SSC campus as a background as one of its many fine features. In its first annual state survey in 1938, the Mississippi Scholastic Press Associated awarded *The Rock-A-Chaw* its highest rating, that of "Pace Setter," naming it the best high school paper in the state. For the 1938-39 school year, 69 SSC students applied to join the staff which Br. Alexis Klee moderated, having taken over from Br. Edmund in 1936.

For 31 years through the 1963-64 session, SSC students continued to publish *The Rock-A-Chaw* as a high school newspaper, sometimes changing the format, but never sacrificing quality journalism.

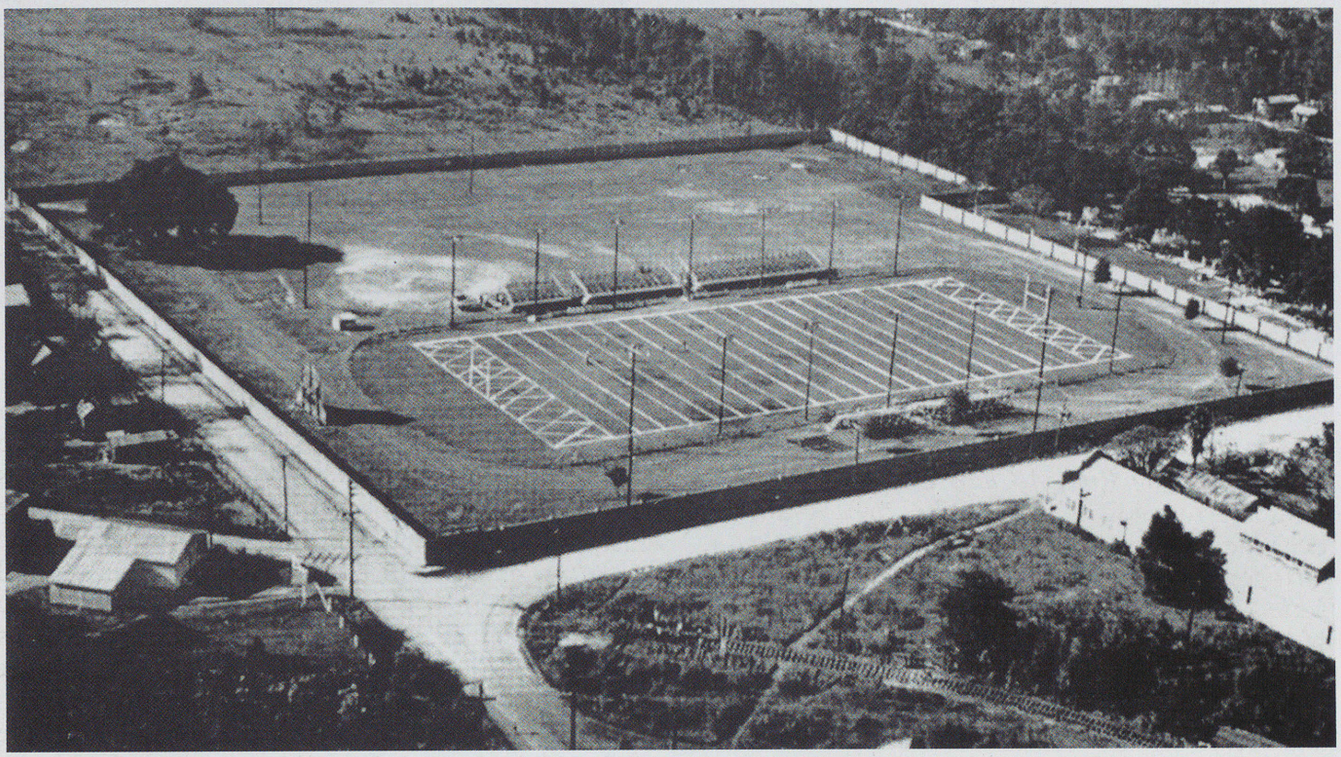


Arthur Sheehy, senior, led the editorial staff of the 1940-41 *Rock-A-Chaw.* Br. Alexis Klee served as its adviser.

Br. William Assures Academic Status

With so much acclaim coming to SSC in athletics, Br. William Sharkey, SSC president from 1932-38, delighted in the news in 1934 that SSC graduate Marshall Ballard '29 was named a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England. To assure that the academic program which enjoyed a stellar reputation did not slip, Br. William led the faculty in 1934 in acquiring full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the highest ranking educational organization in the South. High criteria of academic excellence and regular evaluations assured the College's academic status, making it easier for graduates to gain acceptance into prestigious universities.

Evidence that Br. William's efforts had enduring success showed up ten years later in 1944 when St. Stanislaus ranked first in the state for its scholastic work in tests administered by the Mississippi Department of Education.



Aerial shot of the stadium across the tracks in 1938 shows the nine-foot cinder block wall built in 1929 and the improvements made by the Sidelines Club: the 50-foot high light poles, the raised bleachers, and the lighted scoreboard.

Parents Become Involved in School Activities

During Br. William's tenure as president, he organized a Parents Club in 1932 which developed into two Mothers' Clubs, one locally and one in New Orleans. Their activities raised money for various school projects, such as new band uniforms and the school's first bus in 1936.

During the spring of 1936, members of the newly formed Sidelines Club, organized by Coach Harry "Wop" Glover and Br. William, went to work on the stadium. Led by Walter Gex Jr., Milton Phillips, Coach Grady Perkins, and John Scafide, members turtlebacked the football field, planted Bermuda grass on it, and installed a sprinkler system. The previous year Walter Gex had taken it upon himself to have lights installed at the stadium so that the football team could have night games. Using dynamite charges at the butt of each pole, he had 14 light poles sunk so that they stood 50 feet high with two reflectors on each pole.

Before long the Sidelines Club had secured new bleachers and a new scoreboard to achieve the club's goal to make the SSC stadium *"second to none"* in the state. From 1937 to 1942, SSC hosted Sugar Bowl teams such as Santa Clara, Carnegie, Tulsa, Boston College, and Fordham. These teams stayed at Reed Hotel and used the SSC stadium for practice, finding it first class.

Br. Romuald Builds First Class Bands

When Br. Romuald Robitaille took over the SSC band program in 1932, he found it necessary to rebuild it. The strong emphasis on athletics in the 1920s had taken its toll on the band that in the past had so often brought recognition to St. Stanislaus and Bay St. Louis.

Capitalizing on the strong interest in athletics which prevailed on campus, Br. Romuald started a marching band in 1935 that performed at half-time shows of football games. Also the marching band of about 30 members took part in many parades in town and out of town. With the support of the Mothers' Club, Br. Romuald outfitted the band in snappy red and white uniforms with capes, hats, and ties. Multicolored flags added to the colorful display. In 1936 the St. Stanislaus marching band won superior ratings at its first state competition in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1942 SSC drum major, George Comeaux, won his fourth state title.

Br. Romuald succeeded in reorganizing the concert band and recruiting new members. In April of 1937 a bold banner headline on the first page of *The Rock-A-Chaw* proclaimed *"SSC Takes State Music Contest at Jackson."* Competing against 14 other bands in its classification, the concert band won top honors in the state.



Winning contests became commonplace for the SSC bands under Br. Romuald's leadership. The 1956 SSC yearbook noted that since 1937 the band had *"amassed a total of sixteen plaques for first-place ratings and hundreds of medals by individual members."*

In recognition of his 25 years of excellent music ministry at SSC, Br. Romuald was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 1974. His students remember him for his humility and hard work.



The Saint Stanislaus Band comes marching down the street. The familiar red and white uniforms of this snappy organization are seen on many a football field and for other functions.

Photo from the 1941 school catalog shows the SSC band marching through town during one of its many parades.



Oldest Club on Campus Shows New Leadership

Started on the SSC campus in 1878, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin was going stronger than ever in the late 1930s and early 1940s. At that time St. Stanislaus students took the lead in organizing a Gulf Coast Union.

Always the largest organization on campus, annual membership averaged well over a hundred and fifty boys who met weekly on Saturdays. The sodality fostered devotion to Mary and frequent Mass and Communion. It also sponsored social and spiritual activities. A highlight of every year was the annual sodality picnic, often to one of the nearby islands.

In the 1930s, St. Stanislaus students began organizing and helping the students at St. Joseph Academy host conventions of sodality members from other schools along the coast. Together these groups formed a union and took on many active projects such as campaigning against stores that sold pornography and theaters that showed indecent movies. They made pamphlets on religious topics available to fellow students and did much to curb the use of bad language on their campuses.

Religious Activities Abound in '30s & '40s

With religious fervor strong on the campus, the 1930s ushered in new activities such as student retreats and the mission drive. By the late 1930s these activities seemed to reach an all-time high, but with the disciplined atmosphere caused by the necessity to train for war in the early 1940s, they became even more intense. Daily religion class taught by a Brother emphasized the tenets of the faith and basic moral behavior. Devotions such as daily recitation of the rosary, benediction, frequent visits to the chapel, and novenas such as the one before the feast of St. Stanislaus were common.

Student Retreats

Each year three days were dedicated to retreats for all students. Instead of regular classes, students listened to talks given by priests who were brought in for the retreats. In the late '30s, seniors began going as a class to a closed retreat center off campus for several days, frequently to Manresa.

Mission Drive

Not long after the Brothers began their work in Uganda in 1931, it became traditional for students in their schools to sponsor an annual Mission Drive during Lent. At times, these mission drives became highly competitive between classes. In 1944 for example, SSC students turned in $1,655 for an average of $4.79 per boy. Results were tabulated and printed for each homeroom, with the drive being won that year by Freshman A. Instead of the usual raffles, the class had sponsored a boxing tournament.

Society of the Blessed Sacrament

Br. Peter started this society for juniors and seniors. Members attended Mass at least four times weekly including Friday and Sunday and made a daily visit to the chapel.

Society of St. John Berchmans

This was the name given to the altar boys' society. Members learned the Latin responses for serving Mass and took turns serving at St. Stanislaus and at Our Lady of the Gulf.

Christmas Toys for the Poor

Br. Peter started the annual Christmas Tree Party in 1938. Students raised money to buy toys which they distributed in the gym on Christmas Eve to 800 needy boys and girls.

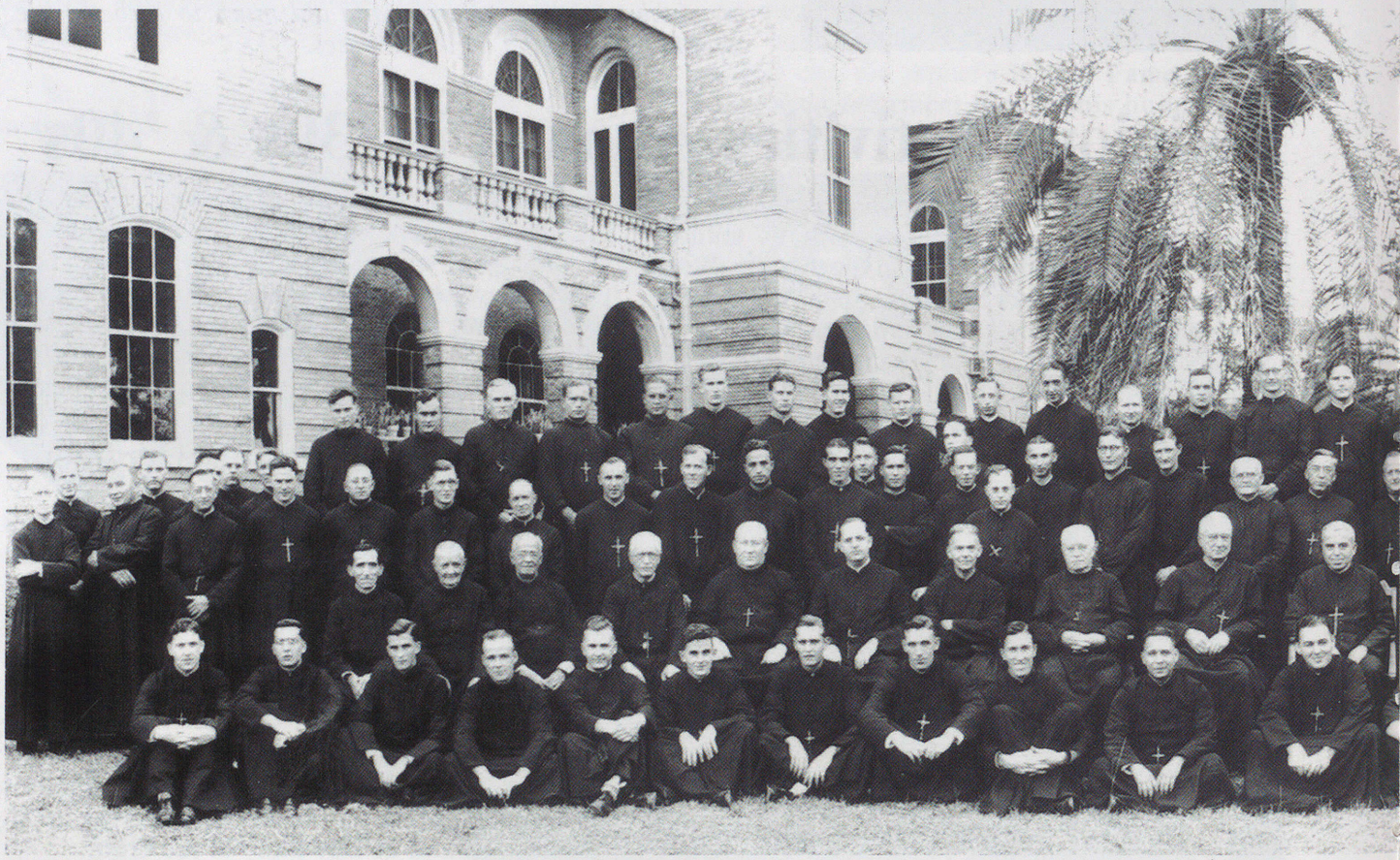
SSC Campus Beyond Beautiful--*Sacred*

Bay St. Louis has long been viewed by Louisianians as a healthy summer resort town on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, famous for its artesian wells, orange groves, pine forests, majestic oaks, and beautiful bay with constant breezes. Br. Macarius Pierce, a former president of SSC, in his book *A Century of Service* described Bay St. Louis in glowing terms: *"Here along the low-lying coast, where the tide waters lap the golden sand and where the aromatic pine reaches the shore is as lovely a piece of nature as ever blessed a favored land. To the west of this coast is a beautiful bay which needs only a mountain or two to rival that of Naples."*

Aside from its natural beauty, the St. Stanislaus campus in Bay St. Louis has held a sacred spot in the hearts and memories of the Brothers for religious reasons. For over a century, annual province retreats were held in Bay St. Louis since St. Stanislaus could accommodate large numbers of Brothers. Br. Athanasius, first president of SSC, wrote in his journal as provincial in 1877, *"Retreat was given by Rt. Rev. Bishop Elder. Bros. Victorian and Odon Smith made perpetual vows. We were 45 Brothers to follow the retreat."* Some years the number of Brothers making the Bay retreat was more than a hundred.

Since so many Brothers have pronounced vows in the St. Stanislaus chapel, it has been very special to the Brothers. There hundreds of Brothers have assembled for vow ceremonies and jubilee celebrations.

Also, for more than 30 years since 1972, all Brothers of the New Orleans Province have gathered at St. Stanislaus annually to celebrate together the Easter liturgies and to discuss community business in a fraternal setting.



Group photo of 123 Brothers on the front lawn of St. Stanislaus at their 1939 annual retreat at the Bay:

Front Row, left to right: Brothers Earl, Roy, Alberic, Reginald, Boris, Gabriel, Alton, Leo, Michael, Nicholas, Jules, Stanislaus, John, Bertrand, Cyprian, Philip, Lucian, Dacian, Xavier, Camille, and Ivan

Second Row, left to right: Brothers Oswald, Florimond, Adelard, Humbert, Florian, Ignatius, Ferrer, Macarius, Lambert, Albertinus, Martinian, Theodorus, Peter, Anthony, Julius, Bonaventure, Ilbertus, Gerald, Fabian, and William





Brothers' Cemetery

Another very important reason why the Brothers hold portions of the St. Stanislaus campus sacred is that so many of their confreres are interred in the Brothers' community cemetery on Hancock Street.

Started in 1867 during the yellow fever epidemic, the Brothers' cemetery on the SSC campus has always been a place that Brothers have visited during their annual retreats at the Bay. Originally located on the site of the present tennis courts, the cemetery was moved in 1955 to the west side of Hancock Street.

The top photo on the left taken during Br. Florent Favier's funeral procession in 1959 shows the front of the cemetery almost empty. The 2001 photo below it shows the same cemetery which now is filled. In the back are white marble stone statues of Calvary which were added in 1955.



Third Row, left to right: Brothers Gonzaga, Albert, Walter, Oswin, Conrad, Jerome, Carol, Aloysius, Alvin, Dominic, Athanasius, Lawrence, Charles, Basil, Hugh, Aubert, Alfred, Roger, Gordian, Timothy, Firmin, Augustine, Frederick, Benet, Florent, Thomas, Robert, Ephrem, Adrian, Adalbert, Maximin, Claver, Anselm, Linus, Bernardine, Claude, Carl, Quintin, David, Ralph, Oliver, Arnold, Clovis, Lloyd, Omer, Alexis, Gerard, and Cosmas

Back Row, left to right: Brothers Ernest, Patrick, Celsus, Roland, Aquinas, Allen, Clement, Roderic, Alcuin, Romuald, Raymond, Leonard, Julian, Remigius, Marcellus, Alphonse, Bernon, Andre, Berchmans, Felician, Marion, Marius, Kenneth, Giles, Donald, Mark, Matthew, Milton, Marvin, Denis, Canisius, Benedict, Gregory, and Bertin

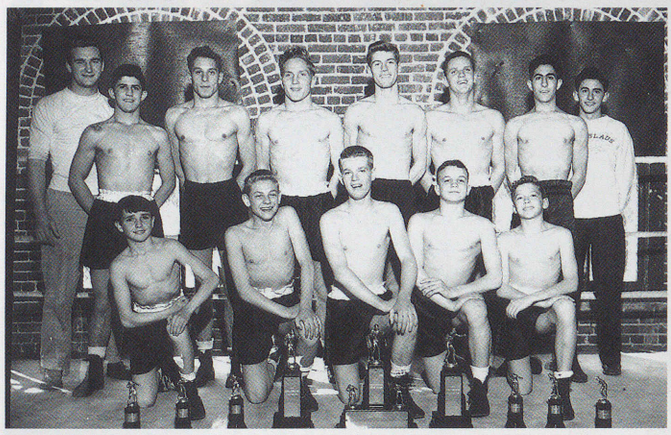
Boxing Teams Win State Title 7 Times

St. Stanislaus won its first state championship at the third annual State Boxing Tournament which took place at Bay High in 1937. That year the SSC boxing team, coached by Roger Heitzman, had eight individual state titlists, the largest group ever: Vlado Ivicevich, Joseph Glover, Arthur Fix, Evan Adams, Theo Thomas, V. J. Gianelloni, Hugh Kiefer, and Primo Fayard. These mittmen set a high standard for future teams to match.

SSC hosted the State Boxing Tournament in its gym in 1938 and 1939. Five SSC student boxers were crowned state champs each year, and in 1939 the SSC team, then coached by Edmund Blaize, won its second state championship title.

After World War II when state tournaments resumed, boxers at SSC again excelled. In the late forties and early fifties, SSC won the state title five more times in 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951. In 1946 Coach John Scafide placed ten boxers in the finals, and five of them won state titles. From 1948 through 1951, Coach Richard Thames' teams dominated the state tournaments, being crowned state champs four years in a row.

At the end of the 1951 season, the Mississippi State Athletic Association dropped boxing as an interscholastic sport. During the brief period of the state tournament's existence since 1935, SSC won the state title seven times, a record not matched in any other sport.



1949 State Championship Boxing Team
Coach Richard Thames

Kneeling from left: Jimmy Curran, Eugene Schwartz, Bobby Mills, Paul Palermo, and Toni Stimmel
Standing: Jim Weithmann (assistant coach), John LaBruzzo, Walter Powell, Joe David, Frank Dominique, Don Haas, J. V. Morreale, and Ambrose Chiniche (manager)

SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

1924 Basketball team wins trophy at Chicago national finals
First homecoming celebration

1926 Br. Peter named SSC president

1928 Camp Stanislaus begins

1929 Gulf Coast champions, Football and Track; Basketball finalists in Chicago

1930 Chapel building dedicated

1932 *Rock-A-Chaw* newspaper begins
First SSC Marching Band
Parents' Association Formed

1933 Sodality hosts Gulf Coast Union

1934 SCC accredited by SACS
Marshall Ballard '29 named Rhodes Scholar

1936 Sidelines Club formed

1937 Boxing team wins first of seven State championships: '37, '39, '46, '48, '49, '50, '51
Band wins State championship

1938 Football team undefeated Gulf Coast champs; Toy Bowl tie

1940 First Student Council formed

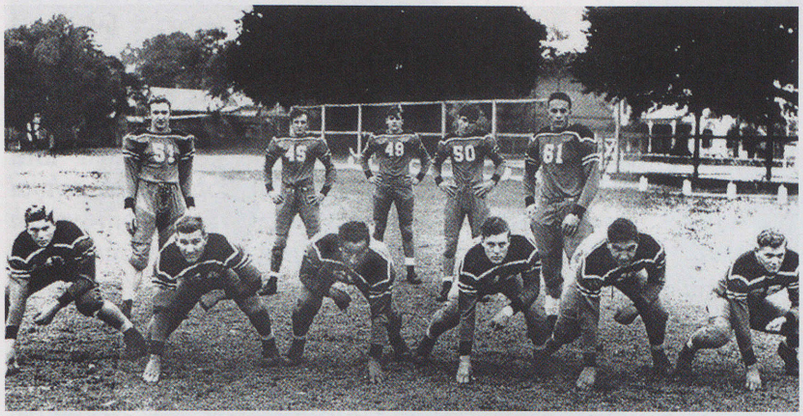
1941 Aeronautics added to curriculum
Football team in Toy Bowl as undefeated Gulf Coast champs
Tennis team, Gulf Coast champs

1945 Basketball team state runner-up
Felix "Doc" Blanchard '42 wins Heisman Trophy

1946 Record Enrollment: 264 boarders, 176 day students

1947 Major hurricane hits College

1948 Leo Fahey '14 named Bishop
Brother Peter dies
Fleas & Flies win Toy Bowl



1941 Gulf Coast Champions

Front from left are Clifford O'Connor, John Funk, Lawrence Livicarri, Jim O'Donohoe, Harold Zimmerman, and J. T. Prosser. *Standing* are Sonny Carnes, Aldolph Schmidt, Hugh Kiefer, Elmer Breerwood, and Felix Blanchard. Blanchard's #61 jersey has been retired at SSC.

In one of the most exciting games of the season, Coach Pete Burge's Rock-A-Chaws defeated the top-ranked Louisiana team, Jesuit, in New Orleans 7-6. Invited to the Toy Bowl in New Orleans, SSC lost 25-6 to McComb before 25,000 spectators.

Doc's Heisman Trophy Big Hit at SSC

Fullback Felix "Doc" Blanchard '42 led the 1941 SSC football team to an undefeated regular season, the Gulf Coast Championship, and an invitation to the Toy Bowl. After SSC's famous 7-6 victory over Jesuit, in which Blanchard rushed for 143 yards, scored the Rocks' touchdown, drop-kicked the point after, and once punted out of bounds on the Blue Jays' 1-yard line, the New Orleans press described him as *"a 200 pound 17-year old Superman."*

At the US Military Academy where he was named All-American in football three times, Doc led West Point to a 27-0-1 record between 1944-46.





SSC Resource Center, 2002: students pause to view Doc's trophies on display, a highlight of every campus tour.

Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, 1994: Ashton Feehan '94, inductee Pete Taylor '39, inductee Doc Blanchard, Br. Paul Montero, SSC president, and Warren Kempf '94

Colonel Earl Blaik, his coach, said of him: *"Imagine a big bruising fullback who runs the hundred yards in 10 seconds flat, who kicks off into the end zone, who punts 50 yards, who can also sweep the flank as well as rip the middle, who catches laterals or forward passes with sure fingered skill and who makes his own interference."*

While still a junior in 1945, Doc won the coveted Heisman Trophy as well as the Maxwell Award as America's outstanding football player. That same year, he captured the AAU's Sullivan Award. All three of these trophies are on display in the St. Stanislaus Resource Center, along with several photos of the super star.

One photo in the showcase pictures Colonel Felix Blanchard at the podium during the banquet in 1972 when he was inducted into the SSC Hall of Fame. The inscription on the Sullivan Award gives a good indication of why Doc was so deserving to be in the St. Stanislaus Hall of Fame, not just as a star athlete, but as a man of character. Under his name and list of athletic accomplishments, the inscription reads: *"By reason of his qualities of leadership, strength of character, force of personality, high ideals of amateurism, and excellence of performance, he was elected by a tribunal of 600 sports leaders the amateur athlete who did the most in 1945 to advance the cause of sportsmanship."*

After finishing his military training at West Point, Doc served 25 years in the Air Force, seeing action in Korea and in Vietnam before retiring as a colonel in 1971.

Felix Blanchard and Pete Taylor '39, former student athletes at SSC and members of its Hall of Fame, were inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

SSC Survives War Rationing

Dairy Farm, Garden Sustain Students

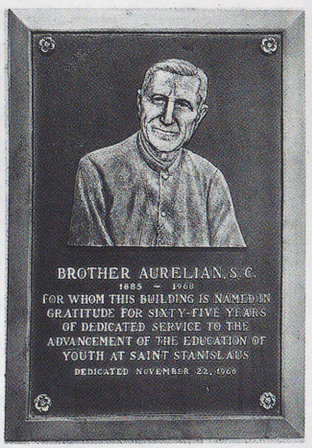
Food rationing during World War II posed few problems for St. Stanislaus College, thanks to the hard work of Br. Aurelian Piton who had earlier helped the school through the Great Depression. Br. Peter Basso, SSC president, supervised students in constructing a new stable with a hayloft for a herd of purebred milch cows, coops for 1,500 chickens, and pens for hogs. So College students had a good supply of milk, eggs, and meat throughout the war.

An inventory made by Br. Fabian Albenque, school treasurer for 33 consecutive years, showed that the College had 15 head of cattle and one mule. In addition, it had 15 acres in cultivated gardens. The 1940-41 St. Stanislaus catalog published photographs of the new barn and garden with the following captions: *"The school owns and operates its own dairy, from which wholesome and health-giving milk is served in abundance to the students at meals. Vegetables to grace the tables of the student body and faculty alike are grown in the School's own garden."*

After the war, the College got rid of the dairy farm. Br. Aurelian continued the large vegetable farm until 1950, when a broken leg forced him to limit his efforts to a smaller flower garden.

Br. Aurelian Sets Example Of Character Formation

Br. Aurelian Piton, a French missionary to the United States, holds the record for serving the longest at St. Stanislaus, an incredible 65 years from August 1903 until his death in July 1968. Exiled from France by an anti-clerical government, young Br. Aurelian came to this country as a novice. Denied an opportunity for education, he spent most of his religious life in manual labor. At SSC he was in charge of the dairy farm as well as the vegetable farm.

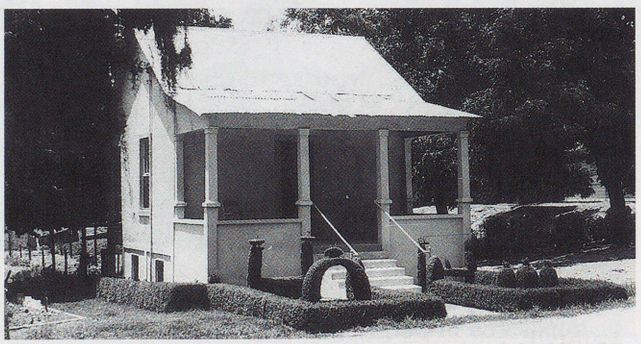


"Chief" as good Br. Aurelian was called had enormous strength and energy, often working a 16-hour day. His hard work and good example of humility, frankness, and kindness were noted by the SSC students. Inspired by his courage and strength of character, the editors of the 1957 White Cap dedicated the yearbook to this brother who lived and worked in a quiet, unassuming manner while exerting tremendous influence upon them.

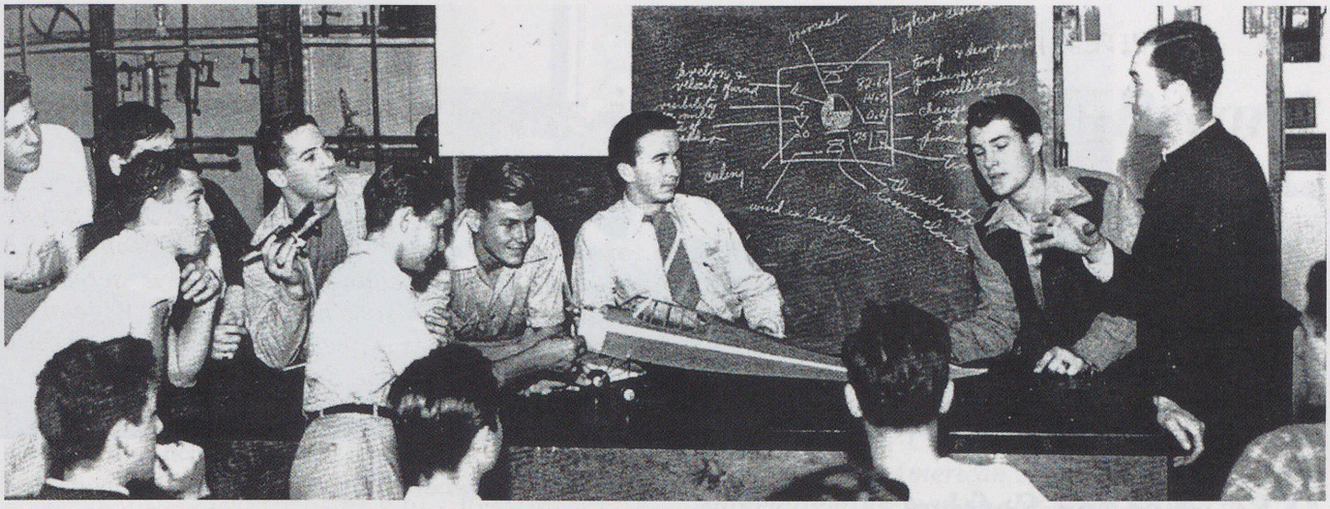
The student dormitory building constructed in 1966 was named Aurelian Hall in Br. Aurelian's memory, and his old wooden wheelbarrow and long scythe are on display in the lobby there.







For many years, Chief's Cottage, which Br. Aurelian built and lived in, served as a landmark on the SSC campus.



SSC Offers Aeronautics, Seamanship Classes

St. Stanislaus College adapted its curriculum to meet wartime needs, intensifying its program to speed up the mental, moral, and physical development of its students, especially the seniors, some of whom were draft age. Br. Felician Fourrier, a qualified aviation instructor, is shown above with his 1942 pre-flight aeronautics class of seniors who planned to join the Air Cadets in the Army or Navy immediately after graduation.

Also, in cooperation with the Navy and Coast Guard, SSC was one of the first schools in the country in 1943 to offer a basic seamanship course. Br. Felician taught the principles of navigation and meteorology in the evenings to allow 56 students from Bay High to join with 68 juniors and seniors from SSC in taking the special course. Lieutenants Ben Hille and Jaubert Fucich, Coast Guard officers, helped with the instruction of the 18 night sessions and offered the daytime use of their boats.

Other curriculum changes during the war years involved compulsory physical education courses and daily calisthenic drills to assure that SSC graduates would be physically fit for the military immediately upon graduation.



With money tight in 1941, the juniors sponsored the junior-senior prom in the SSC gym which they decorated.

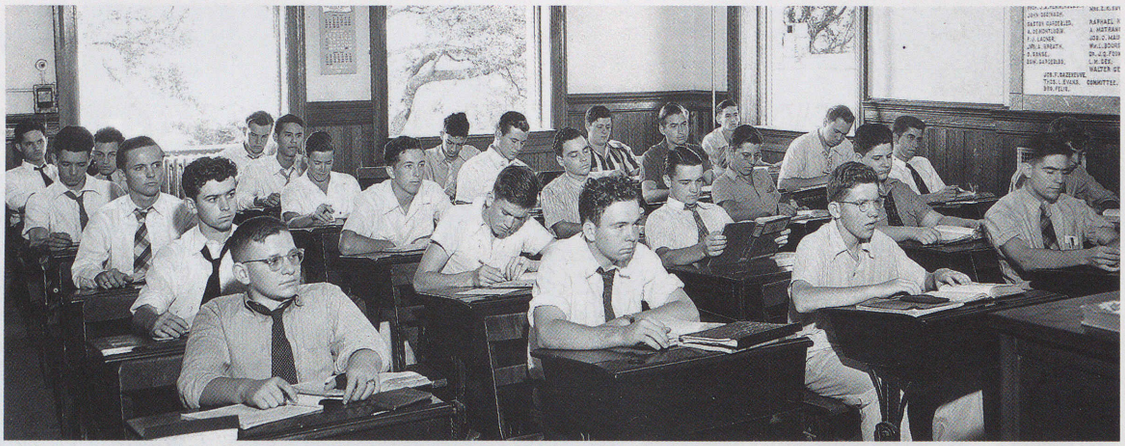
Br. Fabian's Wartime Financial Reports Revealing

Br. Fabian Albenque, a French missionary, served as treasurer at St. Stanislaus from 1916 to 1949 during the administrations of six different presidents. Always joyful, "Pop Fabian" was a dedicated religious who kept very careful financial records. Br. Fabian filed financial reports with the diocese as requested by the Bishops and with Hancock Bank that held the mortgage on the school property. His wartime reports are most revealing of the charity done by the Brothers during that difficult period when money was tight.

Room, board, and tuition in 1940-41 for resident students at SSC amounted to $495 a year. But of the 172 boarders that year, 49 of them attended free and 28 attended at reduced fees.

Annual tuition for day scholars varied according to grade levels, from $45 for Grades 4-6 to $81 for Grades 11-12. Of the 131 day scholars, 53 paid reduced rates and 40 paid nothing. Thus in 1940-41 of 303 students at SSC, fewer than half paid full tuition; 89 attended school free; and 81 at reduced rates. In addition, 67 boys attended the Free Day School taught by the Brothers.

Br. Fabian's tuition reports for the 1940-41 school year showed it was typical of the War Years. Thanks to Pop's financial astuteness, SSC still prospered in 1941, meeting its mortgage payments and even issuing new bonds for $150,000 to educate all who applied.



As seniors, the Class of '41 were serious about their studies and prepared for the military.

"SSC Not for Softies"

W.W. II Impacts Student Life at SSC

In addition to curriculum changes to prepare graduates for immediate entry into the military, SSC sponsored a variety of programs to help its students fulfill their patriotic duty. In May of 1942, SSC established the first Aircraft Warning Observation Post in Hancock County. Sixty students joined the Airplane Spotters Corps led by Br. Dominic LeBlanc. They put in more than 7,000 man hours in 1942-43 at their spotters' observation post on the school pier. Watching for planes 13 and a half hours daily, they learned to identify aircraft by the WEFT system: wings, engine, fuselage, and tail structures. Local students joined the Civil Defense Program as messengers to warn townspeople of possible air raids. Many students collected scrap metal as part of a nationwide drive. The SSC band joined with that of Bay High to promote various war efforts with parades through town.

Br. Peter, president, required each boarder to set aside a dime or quarter of his weekly allowance, depending on his age, to buy Defense Stamps. During the first seven weeks of the mandatory program, boarders bought $1,513.95 worth of Defense Stamps, far surpassing requirements. Also, students were encouraged to invest in war bonds which they did generously.

SSC athletes were truly inspired when their popular coach, Coach Pete Burge, resigned to join the Navy after coaching an undefeated football team to the Gulf Coast Championship in 1941 and taking the team to the Toy Bowl. Not only that, students accepted graciously the announcement that the 1942 baseball and track seasons were canceled.

"Saint Stanislaus is not for softies," Br. Peter stressed in his president's message to students in 1942. He demanded that every student devote himself to the School of Character, to be strong-willed and tough-minded in order to overcome a formidable enemy in a desperate war.

Even more drastic changes took place during the 1942-43 session. Br. Peter told students that the interscholastic sports program would be dropped due to a need to conserve gasoline and the heavy schedule that seniors would be taking. During the school day, compulsory calisthenics continued. Then from 3:00 to 4:30 every day, all 230 boarders were required to participate in an aquatics program that included swimming, boating, rowing, and diving. These courses and an intense, compulsory intramural sports program kept students in top physical shape for immediate entry into the military.

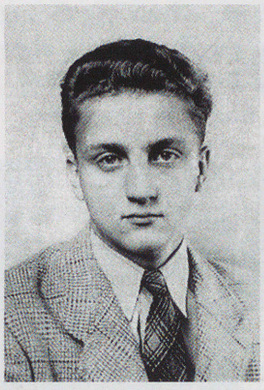
Thirty-five of the 40 varsity football players from the 1942 SSC team entered some branch of the military shortly after leaving school. In his 1943 valedictory address, senior Levi Brown reminded his classmates that *"many will have to postpone their ambitious dreams of professional careers in order to take their place in the armed forces."* He pointed out that as SSC grads they were especially favored with the strong will power, firmness of character, and deep-seated religious convictions that were needed in time of crisis. The training given by the Brothers, Brown concluded, prepared him and his classmates *"to lead in the moral, social, economic, and political life of the country after winning the war to bring about a just peace firmly established on Christian principles."*

Jimmy Carter '44

Valedictory Address in *Congressional Record*

The first issue of *The Rock-A-Chaw* in 1944-45 reported that "Because of the noble sentiment expressed and the manner in which it was delivered, the Valedictory address of James C. Carter of Class '44 was placed in its entirety into the Congressional Record. This is a fitting tribute to Mr. Carter who was an outstanding student during his years at St. Stanislaus. The entire address was composed by him without any help from his instructors. The school feels honored in that it gains recognition as an institution of solid learning."

Jimmy Carter, 1944
SSC Valedictorian



SSC Hall of Fame, 1974
Br. Pierre Inducts Rev. Carter



In his address, Carter told his classmates that

"The establishment of peace and the formation of a world capable of retaining that peace are projects which call for many Catholic leaders--men of Christian ideals who are willing to assume the responsibilities entailed in these undertakings. We know that such leadership must come from our ranks--from among the graduates of our Catholic institutions....

"Just as the American soldier is about the best trained fighting man in the world, so too a St. Stanislaus graduate is one of the best trained fighters to battle the powers of evil....

"There is no need to elaborate upon the fact that a large number of us will soon be involved in a conflict which none of us had even the smallest share in bringing about. Rather, the duty has fallen upon us to share in the making of a durable peace the like of which the world has not known...."

James Carter went on to play a major role in working for the durable peace of which he spoke so eloquently in 1944. As a Jesuit priest, he excelled as a professor, and in 1974 he was named president of Loyola University in New Orleans. Earlier in 1974, SSC inducted Rev. James Carter, S.J. into its Hall of Fame.



For Sixth Grade students at SSC in 1943-44 the war seemed far off.

1st Row Left: Broox Holmes, Mooney Nalty, Edward Hornung, Chapman Stewart, Tommy Mosgrove, Bill Fried, and Arion Lachausee

2nd Row: Ralph Hicks, William McDermott, Adrian Alba, Melvin Dennis, Fred White, and John MacGregor

3rd Row: Dick Wooding, Gary Gilmore, Frank Schmidt, Joseph Piazza, Francis Caine, and Ben Hille

4th Row: Lucien Gex, Ralph Blount, Albert Ranson, Lloyd Ladner, John Gondran, and Anthony Fabacher

Fleas & Flies *"Bury the Hatchet"* Yearly

The annual Flea-Fly Classic grew out of Br. Peter's junior yard league which in 1916 charged admission to its football finals to raise money for a Christmas Tree party for the poor. In 1922 Br. James Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Winona Genin, wife of a local attorney Robert Genin, publicized the contest widely, and *The Sea Coast Echo* dubbed the game the Flea-Fly Classic. The first classic netted only $18.83, but it was destined to become an institution at SSC surrounded with quite a few traditions. One of them was for the young players to *"bury the hatchet"* after the game to symbolize an end to their heated rivalry. The Flea-Fly Classic soon became a highlight of the Bay St. Louis football season.

Some years the classic was played on Thanksgiving Day, but as the attendance grew to more than 500 friends and parents, Br. Bernardine Leanman, organizer in 1937, set the match for the first Sunday in December.

During the 1940s, the Flea-Fly Classic became synonymous with Br. Leonard Levell, who organized the games to raise $800 annually for Br. Peter's Christmas Tree Party for the poor children in town. He upped admission to 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for students, and included an elaborate half-time show with a band and a court of two queens and 24 maids. Br. Leonard expanded the program from two teams of eleven small boys, to Flea and Fly squads that consisted of four teams each with boys divided into four weight categories: up to 70, 80, 90, and 100 pounds. Hundreds of young boys from SSC, its Free Day School, and St. Joseph's Academy took part in the annual Classic.

Coaches, usually Brothers, were named for each team. For several weeks, the boys practiced for the classic in which 100 to 120 small football players, all fully equipped, swarmed up and down the gridiron with unbounded enthusiasm. Evenly matched teams in corresponding weight categories played each other for a set time.

The Flea-Fly Classic continued into the mid-60s with the 48th annual event in 1964 featuring a parade and a court. Many a SSC football great got his start in the Flea-Fly Classic, advancing through the ranks to the Tiny Rocks, the Pebbles, the Rockets, the junior varsity and finally to the varsity.

Toy Bowl Games

All-stars of the Flea-Fly teams represented SSC in the Bantam Toy Bowl in Birmingham in 1946 and 1948. The photo above right shows a group of these young boys with Br. Peter at the train station in Birmingham in 1946. This Toy Bowl should not be confused with *The Times-Picayune* Toy Bowl games which SSC varsity football teams played in after the 1938 and 1941 football seasons. Those bowl games determined the champions of Louisiana and Mississippi high schools.

The Mobile-Birmingham Catholic Diocese's Toy Bowl was actually inspired by the SSC Flea-Fly Classic. As the idea caught on, Bishop T. J. Toolen also sponsored a Toy Bowl in Mobile, and the Tiny Rock all-stars represented SSC in several of the Mobile Toy Bowls in the 1950s.





The 70-pound squads of the Fleas (light helmets) and the Flies (dark helmets) pose for photographs for the program of the 32nd Annual Classic in 1948.

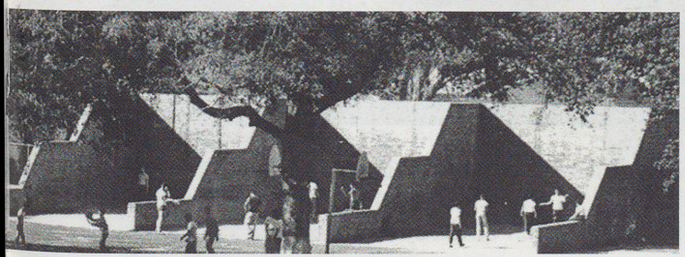


Tennis Club Leads to State Champions

Members of the Junior Tennis Club of 1916 pictured above with their preppy beanies and fancy shoes probably never imagined that the club would grow into a formidable team that would be crowned Gulf Coast Champions and win state titles.

Since the early 1900s, SSC boasted of having some of the best tennis courts in the South, second only to Tulane's. Until the 1950s when the courts were moved to their present location, SSC had three superb tennis courts along Union Street near where Aurelian Hall now stands.





In 1932 Br. Cornelius Keohane coached SSC's first tennis team to play other schools and enter the Gulf Coast regional contest. Br. Julian Gibbens coached the tennis team to an undefeated season and its first regional championship in 1941.

In the late '60s and '70s under the guidance of Br. Pascal Ackerman and Br. Paul Mulligan, shown on the left below coaching his '78 team, SSC's tennis teams again excelled. Between 1968 and 1979, the Rocks compiled a regular season record of 105-3. And in 1979, brothers Tommy '79 and Pat Wild '80 combined to win the state title in boys' doubles, the first state tennis title for SSC, but far from the last.

Coach Myron Labat took over the SSC tennis team in 1986 and led his teams to six division titles and to state team titles in 1998 and 1999. Also in state play, several Rocks won individual titles as well as championships in boys' and mixed doubles events. SSC state champions include Philip Pratt '91; Myron Labat Jr. '91, '92, '93; Craig Christopher '92; Rodrigo Hernandez '93; Scott Wallace '97, '98; Philip Marino '97, '98; Garrett Mann '98, and Michael Carter '01.

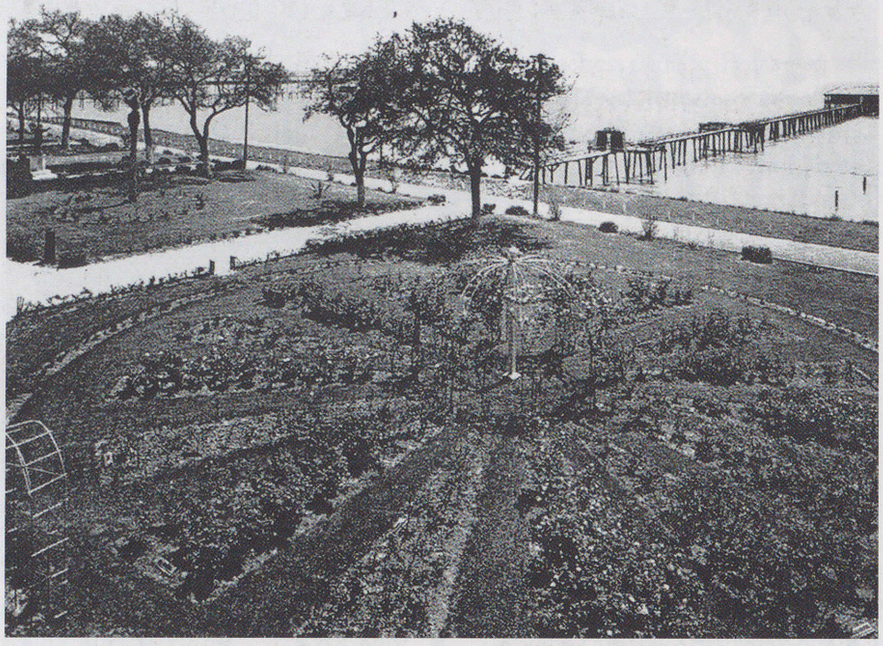
In 2001 the tennis courts next to the Br. Peter Memorial Gym were completely renovated and the orientation changed to north-south, so that SSC can again boast of some of the best courts in the area.

Handball Perennially Popular

From the late 1800s into the 1970s, handball was a very popular campus sport, especially during recess periods. The courts pictured on the left, between the tennis courts and the old gym, were constructed in the 1940s by student work crews organized by Br. Peter.

Roses Add Beauty

Hundreds of rose bushes of 32 varieties radiating out in 16 spokes in each of two immense circular beds in front of the school added beauty and charm to the SSC campus. Started by Br. Peter in 1940, the rose gardens were maintained by student volunteers supervised by Br. Timothy Mattingly, who cultivated them with loving care. The profusely blooming roses, ranging in hue from delicate shades of white and pink to deep blushing crimson, not only suffused the campus with a sweet aroma but also provided ample bouquets for the chapel and parish church.

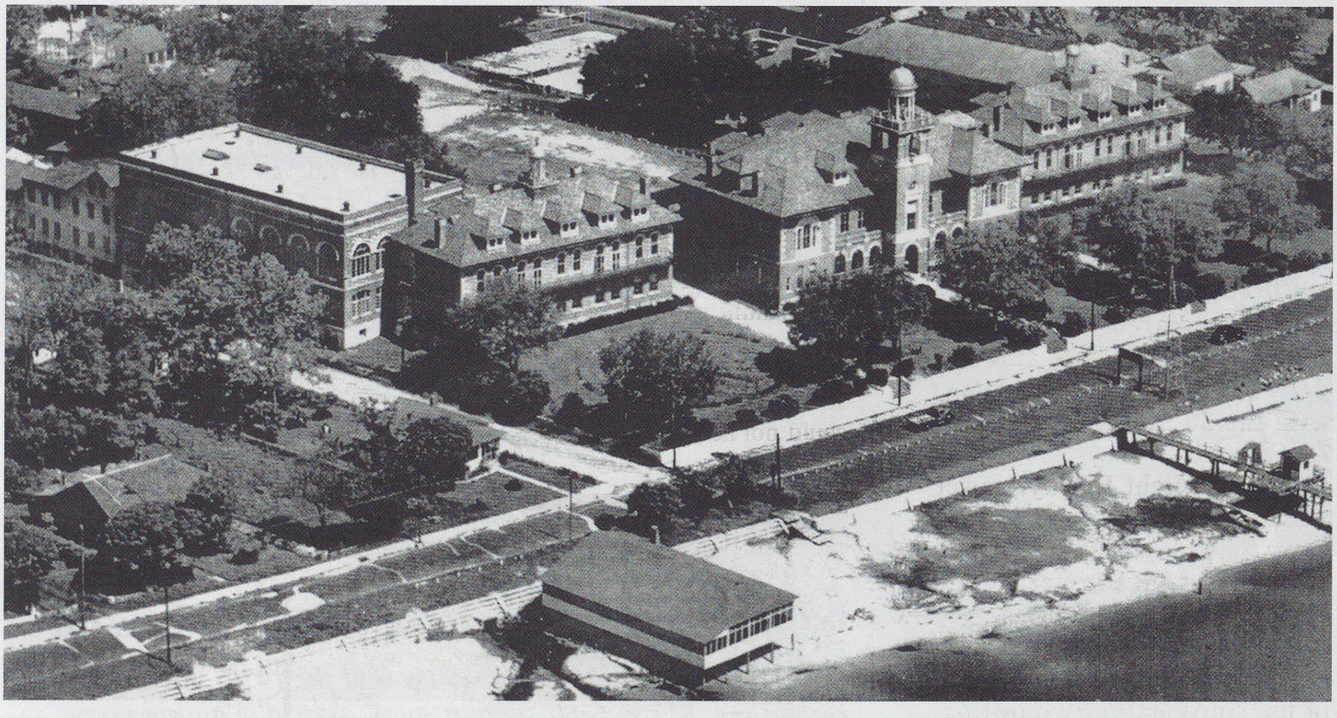


Wind & Water Take Gardens, Pier, Beach

Winds in excess of 130 mph pushed a 15-foot tidal surge over the campus, sweeping away the rose gardens in front of the school and the pier out over the Bay during the Hurricane of 1947.

Also swept away was the white sandy beach which Hancock County had constructed in 1942, extending 50 feet out from the seawall.

The Times-Picayune reported that while engineered seawalls crumbled, Br. Isidore's unconventional breakwater rebuilt in 1915 and termed inadequate by engineers withstood the heavy pounding and again protected the College.



Aerial shot of the front of SSC and its shoreline before the 1947 Hurricane shows the sandy beach that Hancock County constructed in May of 1942. In 1943 the College bought the large bath house on the beach in the foreground. Called the Sea Gull, it served several years as a dorm for 50 summer campers until it was taken down by the College in 1946.

Band Calms Students During '47 Storm

Br. Romuald's band played louder as the winds screeched and howled during the 1947 Hurricane, according to the memoirs of Br. Albert Ledet printed an article in *The Sea Coast Echo*. Br. Albert, 22 years old at the time, recalled that *"the band played most of the night, hoping to drown out the howling of the wind and to calm down the younger boys."*

As the barometer started to fall Friday morning September 19, 1947, the wind and rain increased rapidly. At about 7:30, according to *The Rock-A-Chaw*, *"slates from the college roof rained on the campus and swung dizzily onto the gallery openings. The students were at breakfast when the wind arose to such force that they were unable to get back to the study hall except by passing through the Chemical laboratory windows."* Br. Albert described the flying slates as *"zinging bullets."*

Br. Peter, president, later commented to a New Orleans newspaper that during the storm *"Discipline was perfect, with not a single boy disobeying an order. Throughout the long vigil from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. not one of the 232 students showed signs of panic or hysteria."* Sandwiches were passed around when students were hungry, and they periodically recited the rosary with the 30 Brothers on campus.

By midnight Friday, power was out along the coast and by 3 a.m. Saturday Bay St. Louis felt the full force of the storm which came from the east. Br. Albert remembered that a little bit of water came up through the floor of the study hall. By morning, the wind shifted to the other direction and high waters which swept the campus receded.



Br. Albert said that when he looked out the window by morning first light, he could see *"houses smashing against each other and being destroyed. The whole roadway in front of the College had been washed out. What was left of the pier was stacked up on the front lawn. There was debris everywhere. No electricity or running water. The kids never complained, but the next few days were hard on everybody. We had to use cans for makeshift toilets."*

Br. Albert vividly recalled how the statue of the Sacred Heart which had been secured to its base with four large bolts had turned 45 degrees: *"The wind had broken three of the bolts loose, and the statue turned to face the east-the direction the storm came in-as if it were its intent to calm the storm, and protect the school and occupants."*

Students helped pick up debris for a few days until one lane of Hwy 90 was cleared. Buses then brought resident students home, and the College was closed 12 days for repairs. Twenty students remained on campus and helped the Brothers and National Guard clean up.

Damage to the College exceeded $115,000, but not a single student or Brother was hurt, and there was partial insurance coverage for everything except the pier. The College roof had been ripped in sections and water damaged the ceilings, floors, furniture, and fixtures in the big dormitory.

Br. Ephrem: Guardian of Small Boys

For 29 years beginning in 1932, Br. Ephrem Falgoust served as junior prefect at St. Stanislaus. His vigilance, kindness, and fairness outweighed his strictness which was sometimes seen as severe by the young boys who still could not help but love him.

Br. Ephrem's attention to small details was a major ingredient in the training of his young charges. *"Rare indeed,"* said the 1958 *White Cap* yearbook dedicated to him, *"is the young man who under his guidance does not develop the basis for a genuine manly character."*



Br. Ephrem watches over 42 little ones in the Small Dorm, or Peanut Heaven. He described the Hurricane of 1947 as the worst encounter of his 29 years of prefecting.

Br. Peter's Death Marks End of an Era

Br. Peter, 59, died at New Orleans' Touro Infirmary September 26, 1948, following a long struggle with stomach cancer that included four major operations. He had entered the hospital May 30 after presiding over SSC's graduation.

THE *Man of Character*

A eulogy in the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* eloquently referred to *"a thousand living monuments"* in Br. Peter's memory:

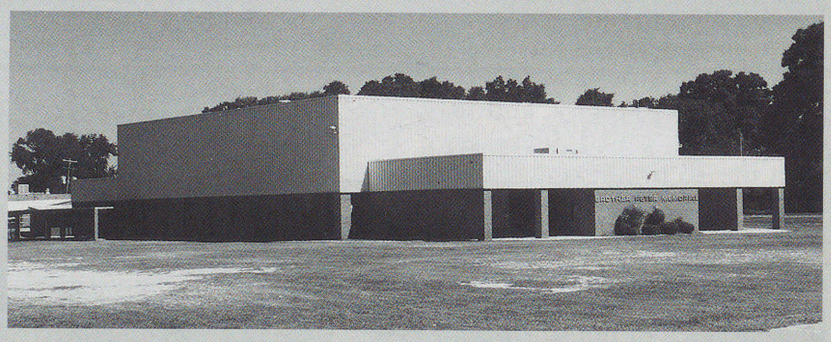
"Brother Peter is dead. The tireless body and the remarkable mind of this unselfish man who devoted every minute of his lifetime to helping his fellow man to a better life will function no more, but his memory, like his soul, is immortal. A thousand living monuments, and more, to Brother Peter walk this land and as long as fathers are able to tell sons of what their dads and grandfathers knew of Brother Peter, these living monuments will go through the years. Incomparable testimonials to the dynamic man who, from his own boyhood days chose as his lifework a task whose only goal was the development and happiness of others."

Some of those *"thousand living monuments"* of Br. Peter shared the following memories of him. The 1954 Alumni Directory printed them with the year of each contributor's graduation:
(1915) *"He had the love and confidence of all who knew him as a teacher."* (1916) *"He was a real friend when needed most."* (1917) *"Wonderful personality and unequaled ability to get next to a boy to bring out the best in that boy; truly an ambassador of God."* (1917) *"Kindness and understanding, especially when in trouble."* (1920 *"An administrative genius. Guidance of students."* (1921) *"His exceptional ability to analyze a boy's problem."* (1923) *"His lessons are now being taught my children."* (1924) *"He once told me, 'when you have nothing to do pray.' Since then I have followed his advice with great profit."* (1927) *"He was a wonderful friend to all boys, a great and unforgettable man."* (1930) *"Dynamic, forceful character."* (1931 *"His big brother attitude towards everyone."* (1933) *"His genius and Christ-like interest in youth.* (1935) *"His wish to make all boys conscious of the great worth of Holy Communion."* (1948) *"I can never forget his saying, 'What kind of a Catholic gentleman will you be when you leave SSC.'"*

Br. Peter's brother, Monsignor John Basso celebrated two solemn high Requiem Masses, one September 27 at St. Augustine Church in New Orleans and another the next day at Our Lady of the Gulf in Bay St. Louis. Bishop Richard Gerow gave the funeral sermon in which he pointed out that *"Br. Peter was a great man who had a special talent for drawing young people to him, and his work stood out before the whole world."* Hundreds of friends joined with the students of St. Stanislaus, St. Joseph Academy, and the Day School in the largest funeral procession ever to the Brothers' Cemetery. There they laid to rest Br. Peter who had served 27 years at St. Stanislaus College, 14 of them as president.

Br. Peter's death marked the end of an era in which St. Stanislaus enjoyed a certain stability in school leadership. The next 20 years would bring rapid turnovers, especially in principals.



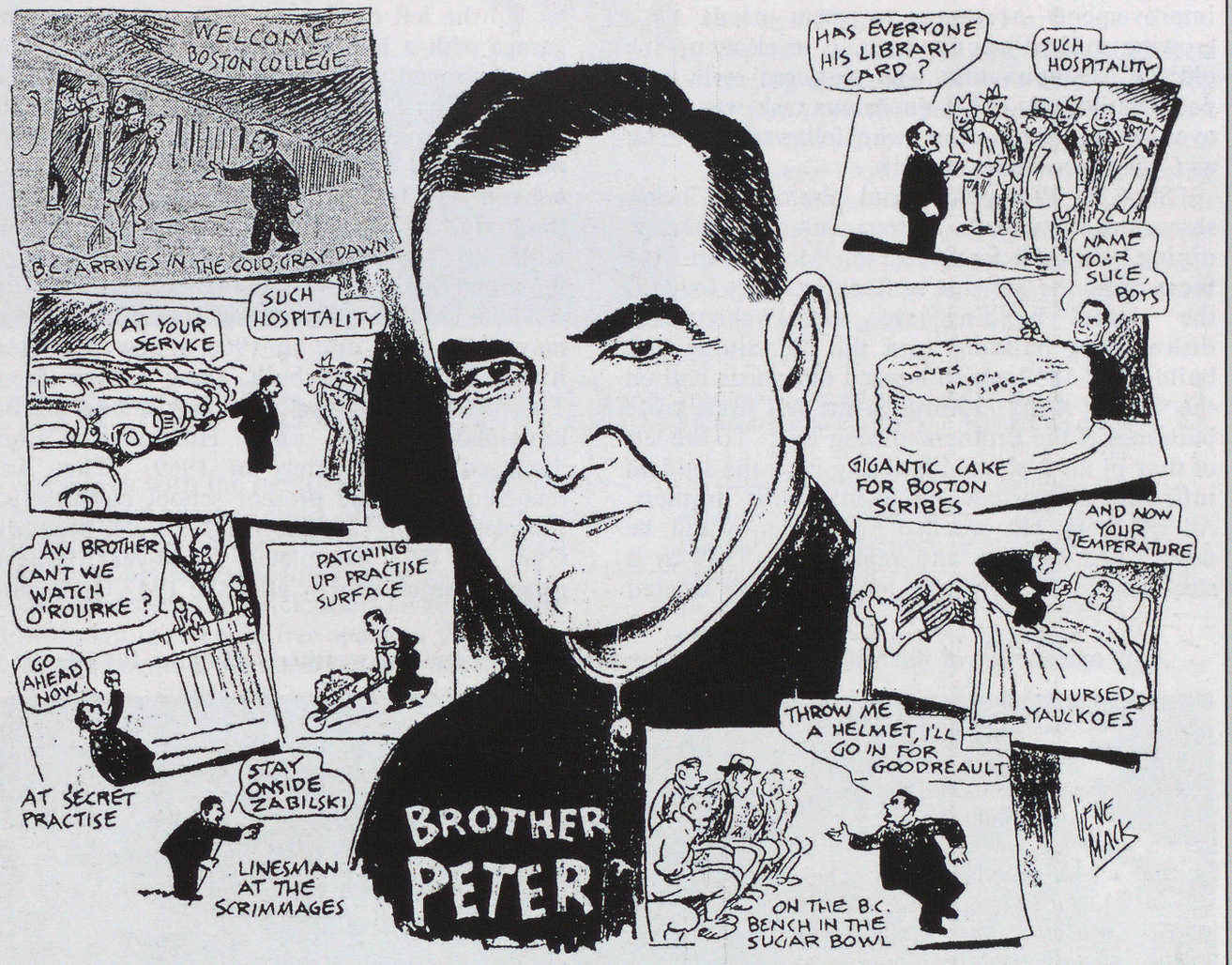


Br. Peter addressed officers of the U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps in March of 1947 at one of his many speaking engagements. Br. Linus Meyers, principal, is on the far left.

In 1977 SSC dedicated a $600,000 gym with a 1,300 seating capacity to Br. Peter Basso. A plaque in the gym lobby describes him as, *"Teacher, Guide and Friend to Thousands of Boys Whose Spiritual, Mental, and Physical Growth Were His Primary Concern For Forty-Two Years."*

THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE—FEBRUARY 9, 1941

THE PERFECT HOST . . . . . By Gene Mack



Though he wasn't at Bay St. Louis, Miss., or New Orleans, Gene Mack, the Globe's brilliant cartoonist, here has perfectly caught Brother Peter's likeness and the spirit which seemed to animate the president of St. Stanislaus while he was acting as host to the Boston College football squad in its final preparations for the Sugar Bowl game.

Brother Peter arrived in Boston yesterday noon and will be the chief speaker at tonight's Boston College Varsity Club banquet. Well able to live up to the affectionate adjectives such as "fabulous" and "incredible" which Boston sports writers pinned on him in the South, Brother Peter's remarks tonight will be delivered in verse!

Brother Peter had dinner with Coach Frank Leahy and Mrs. Leahy out in Waban yesterday evening. While in town, he will participate in all the functions planned for the 16 members of the Mid-Winter Sports Association.

Newspaper Pieces Capture Br. Peter's Personality

Many a word has been written honoring Br. Peter as a nationally known educator and molder of character of students and athletes. *The Boston Globe* cartoon from 1941, pictured above, captured well Br. Peter's interest in athletics, his loving care for others, his attention to detail, his strong sense of hospitality, and most of all his indomitable spirit.

One of the finest tributes paid to Br. Peter just a few months before his final illness appeared in the March 9, 1948, *Times-Picayune* following a SSC alumni reunion in New Orleans:

"It was an impressive sight to see more than 200 men most of them well past middle age and most of them outstanding citizens of New Orleans--bankers, brokers, doctors, lawyers--getting together and showing such inextinguishable love and spirit for the little school over on the edge of Bay St. Louis.

"It was a twin tribute to the appeal of the school itself and to the lifelong efforts of Brother Peter who has unconsciously woven his name into the warp and woof of the Rock-A-Chaws so firmly that it has become a synonym for St. Stanislaus."

Capital Improvements Cover 30-Year Span

It took 30 years from 1947 to effect capital improvements necessary to meet needs of a growing student population and to clean up the old SSC campus that was cluttered with outdated buildings. This enormous task was taken over by Br. Alexis Klee, who followed Br. Peter as College president in 1948.

Shot in 1949, the aerial photograph below shows the framework, bottom center, for the new dining hall, built for $156,346. Moving up from there along the left side of Bookter Street towards the chapel building are the kitchen, the dishwashing building, and the old dining hall building of 1859 which housed the music hall on the second floor. Jutting to the left from those buildings is the Brothers' dining hall. To the left of that in an L-shaped building were the student infirmary and private rooms for elderly Brothers. All of these old wooden structures would be demolished in 1958 and replaced in 1959 by a steel and brick infirmary building to be located between the chapel building and the dining hall.

To the left of the old infirmary was the bus garage with a lumber shed behind it. The shed was destroyed, and the bus garage was relocated along Union Street. The old chicken coops, the L-shaped buildings on the far left bottom of the photo, would be renovated in 1952 and used as a band hall until 1974 when the Br. Romuald Band Hall was dedicated. To the right of those buildings stood Br. Aurelian's house which remained until after his death in 1968.

The tennis courts along Union Street were moved in 1956, and in 1966 a new dormitory, Aurelian Hall, was built along Union Street. The three main school buildings facing the Bay remained in use until Hurricane Camille damaged them severely in 1969. They were removed when the present school building was completed in 1972. The Brother Peter Memorial Gym in 1977 completed a 30-year building program begun shortly after the 1947 Hurricane.

1949 aerial view of the SSC campus, showing the new pier and the weather station on the beach





Magnificent Skyline Pier

In the summer of 1948, St. Stanislaus completed a $50,000 pier to replace the one demolished by the Hurricane of '47. The new skyline pier extended 1,082 feet, starting in the school yard and ascending 14 feet over the beach road and 20 feet above the water. Two roofed pavilions, a bathhouse with hot and cold running water, a double platform at the end for swimming, and several diving boards made the pier one of the finest along the coast. Because of its height, it withstood every storm until Hurricane Camille.

Campus Landscape Dramatically Changed

Beginning with the building program in 1948, the St. Stanislaus College campus began to take on a new appearance. Not only would all of the old wooden frame buildings be replaced by more modern structures of steel and brick, their location would follow a plan that would free space in the center of the campus behind the main school buildings.

A definite quadrangle began to develop with the construction of Aurelian Hall in 1966 and the new infirmary building in 1959.

Also, further back, the campus was cleared to Hancock Street. The barn and laundry building were demolished and the cemetery moved. The old ravine was filled in, culverts laid and covered, making useable space for tennis, handball, and basketball courts. In 1970 a swimming pool was installed, and in 1977 a new gym would be constructed nearby on the site of the old vegetable garden along Bookter Street.



1970 Aerial View

Taken in 1970, the aerial view of the St. Stanislaus campus on the left shows the many changes in its landscape since the 1949 photo on the opposite page. Ascending from the bottom right of the photo, along Bookter Street, are the swimming pool (1970), the juniorate building which became Br. Romuald Band Hall (1974), the laundry which was demolished in 1977, the dining hall (1949), the infirmary building (1959), and the chapel building (1929).

Along Beach Boulevard, facing the Bay, are the school buildings of 1903 which were damaged by Hurricane Camille in 1969 and replaced in 1972.

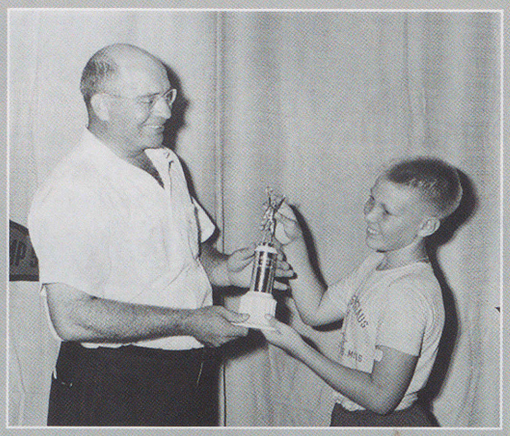
On the left, descending along Union Street, are the old gym built in 1923, Aurelian Hall Dormitory (1966), and the bus garage.

Right: Br. Roland Smith, president of SSC, presents the character trophy to George Rick '64 at the 1957 Camp Stanislaus awards ceremony.

Opposite page, top left: Br. Ramon Daunis, center, leads four campers in a pyramid on skis past Br. Victor Bendillo, photographer, for the cover shot of the 1962 camp book.

Far right: Br. Hilbert Mooney's group sailing by the pier made the cover of the 1956 camp book.

Below: Campfires and wiener roasts on the beach were highlights of Camp Stanislaus every summer.



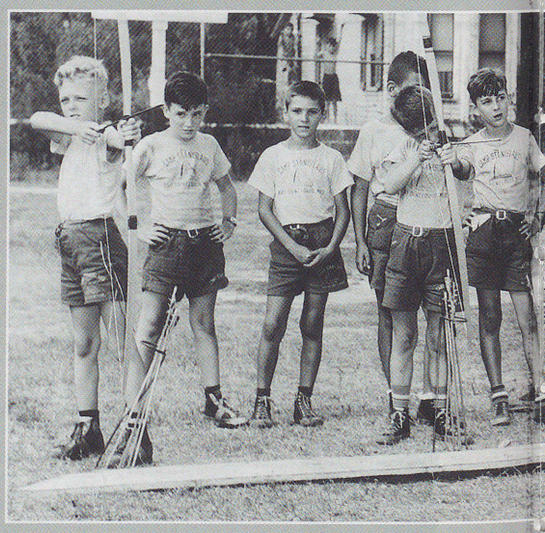


Right: Horseback riding moved from the campus to the Lazy-Y in 1960.

Center: Archery in the '40s took place along Union St.

Far Right: Br. Lee Barker helps with crafts in the early 1950s.









Camp Stanislaus Marks 25th Summer

With its ideal location on the Bay of St. Louis shores, St. Stanislaus used its facilities to provide boys 8 to 14 years old relief from summer boredom, offering well-supervised outlets for their energies. In 1953 Br. Remigius David directed the 25th annual session of Camp Stanislaus. Its wide-spread popularity dated to 1928 when Br. Peter started the camp of fun and character formation, setting its high standards and making it the most sought-after camp in the South.

Thirty Brothers supervised 200 boys at summer camp in 1953. Taking advantage of its water front, Camp Stanislaus offered fishing, swimming, sailing, rowing, boating, and skiing. Other main activities included archery, horseback riding, rifles, boxing, tennis, and hiking as well as the indoor activities of pool, ping-pong, hobbies and crafts. The director gave a daily talk on character formation and the main trophy at the end of camp was a Character Cup.

Camp lasted five full weeks, divided into two and three week sessions for those who preferred a shorter period. Camp Stanislaus enjoyed great success under directors such as Brs. Remigius, Philip Lewis, and Dacian LeBlanc. But the camp deprived the many young Brothers assigned from attending college during the summer semester. So in 1962 after 35 consecutive summers Camp Stanislaus closed. It would reopen in 1969 after Br. Noel Lemmon re-organized it with Brothers who volunteered and a larger lay staff.





Stanislaus Centennial Celebration 1954

SCHEDULE

Centennial Celebration

SAINT STANISLAUS

1854 - 1954

●

SATURDAY, October 9, 1954:

Civic Reception, St. Joseph's Academy Auditorium ..... **8 P. M.**

●

SUNDAY, October 10, 1954:

Open House for Visitors ..... **10:30 A. M. to 3 P. M.**

Procession from College to Church ..... **3:45 P. M.**

Pontifical High Mass,
Celebrant, Most Rev. R. O. Gerow, D.S.T., Bishop of Natchez ..... **4:00 P. M.**
Choir of St. Augustine's Seminary
Church of Our Lady of The Gulf

Banquet by Invitation, for Clergy, Brothers and Their Guests ..... **6:00 P. M.**
Student Dining Room

●

MONDAY, October 11, 1954:

Solemn High Mass of Requiem, Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. G. Gmelch, V. F. ..... **8:00 A. M.**
Choir of Sacred Heart Scholasticate

"St. Stanislaus College, founded in 1854 by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, will celebrate one hundred years of service in Catholic education and character formation of youth with an appropriate three-day program October 9, 10, and 11," reported the lead article of the October 8, 1954, student newspaper *The Rock-A-Chaw.*

On the left is a copy of the schedule reprinted from the student paper. The program for the civic reception included a welcome by Mayor John Scafide, class of 1929; reminiscing by Hon. Robert Genin, class of 1898; talks by Alumni Director Edmund Brignac '48 and Student Representative President Ted Perry '55. Br. Roland Smith, SSC president, responded and the SSC band under the direction of Br. Martial Carruba entertained the assembly.

Celebrations concluded Monday with a moving student-body Mass remembering the many deceased Brothers and students who contributed to the rich history of St. Stanislaus.

Brothers, Alumni Launch Centennial Memorial Campaign

Capitalizing on the centennial celebrations, Br. Roland and Br. Ashton Brisolara, principal, gave new impetus to the alumni building campaign. The ambitious plan presented as the centennial project to the alumni at their annual banquet in 1953 by Br. Celsus Craffey, then president, sought to raise $300,000 to construct a two-story building to house classrooms, an infirmary, and 20 rooms for Brothers.

Br. Celsus had already exerted extensive effort in readying the campus in preparation for its 100th year. The combination dining hall-music building dating back to 1859 was dismantled and removed. The Brothers under the direction of Br. Alvin Jones had converted the old chicken coops into a new music hall. The school chapel was refurbished; the walls, the stations and statues were all repainted. The sanctuary's vaulted ceiling was painted sky-blue as a background for three circular symbolic renderings of the three persons of the Trinity. Henry Waguespack '00 of Vacherie, La., financed the sanctuary art work to mark his 50th wedding anniversary.

Br. Celsus spent $70,000 in the summer of '53 renovating the gym, adding modern lavatories, marble partitions, and two large shower rooms, one for each division. Both featured beige ceramic tile walls and green terrazzo floors.

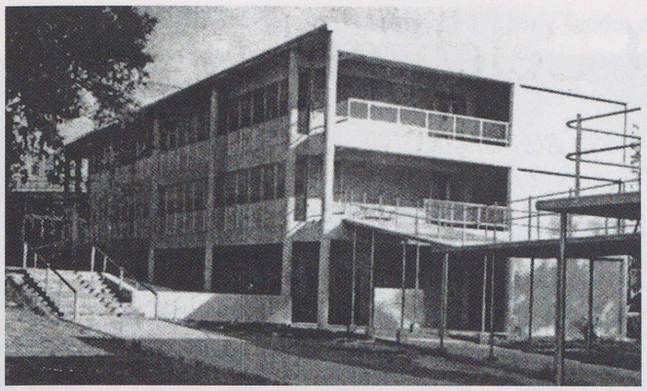
None of these improvements, however, addressed the crucial issue of overcrowded conditions. Back in 1946 when Br. Peter returned to SSC, he began plans for expansion to meet the growing enrollment. In 1952 Br. Celsus moved Grades 4, 5, and 6 from the main campus to the Back School in order to accommodate the 470 students enrolled that year, 220 boarders and 250 day students.

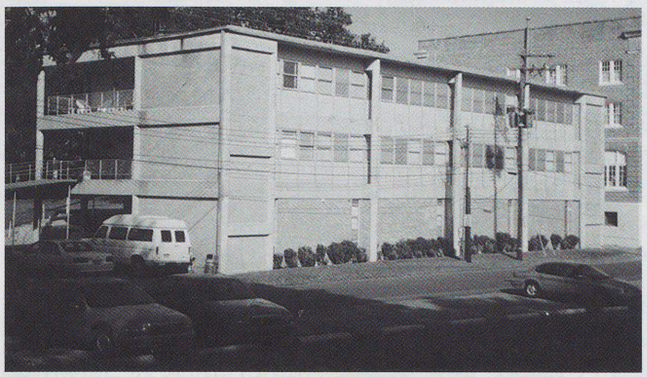
In meeting with the campaign steering committee, chaired by Walter Gex Jr. '24, Br. Roland told the men, *"Gentlemen, you owe the Brothers of the Sacred Heart nothing for what you obtained at St. Stanislaus. All we ask is that you help us to spread the good work accomplished in you."*

Br. Ashton and Walter Gex visited alumni and sent letters of appeal signed by Bishop Richard Gerow and Br. Alexis Klee, assistant general in Rome. On Oct. 10, 1954, a full page of *The Times Picayune* depicted St. Stanislaus as *"a way of life."*



The old infirmary, hastily built in 1903, needed to be replaced by 1953.







Infirmary Building Completed in 1959

In April 1957 *The Rock-A-Chaw* reported that SSC was *"one step closer to the realization of its centennial memorial, a new infirmary, as plans for the proposed building are being drawn up at the present time from revised architectural sketches."*

Seeing that the Centennial Memorial Campaign would not reach its goal of $300,000 any time soon, school officials scaled back the design for the much need facility and then borrowed 75 percent of the $200,000 construction cost from the province. The three-story steel and concrete structure with exterior walls of mosaic panels in pastel colors was constructed on Bookter St., adjoining the chapel building and the dining hall by means of ramps.

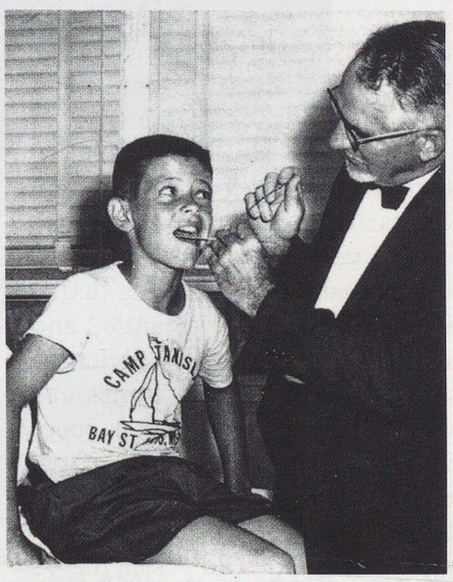
The bottom floor included three classrooms as well as workrooms for *The White Cap* and *The Rock-A-Chaw*, the school yearbook and newspaper. An infirmary with two large sick wards, a treatment room, and nurses' quarters took up most of the second floor. The top floor housed 14 Brothers' bedrooms with semi-private baths.

This new building was referred to as the Infirmary Building from the time of its dedication in October 1959 until 1995 when it was officially named Centennial Hall. Then in 1998 it was totally renovated to become a Brothers' Residence, the first time in the school's long history that the Brothers on campus had a home to call their own. The three photos on the left, starting at the top, show the building at the time of its completion in 1959, just before its renovation began in 1997, and after its completion as a residence in 1998.

Doc Wolfe, Longtime SSC Physican

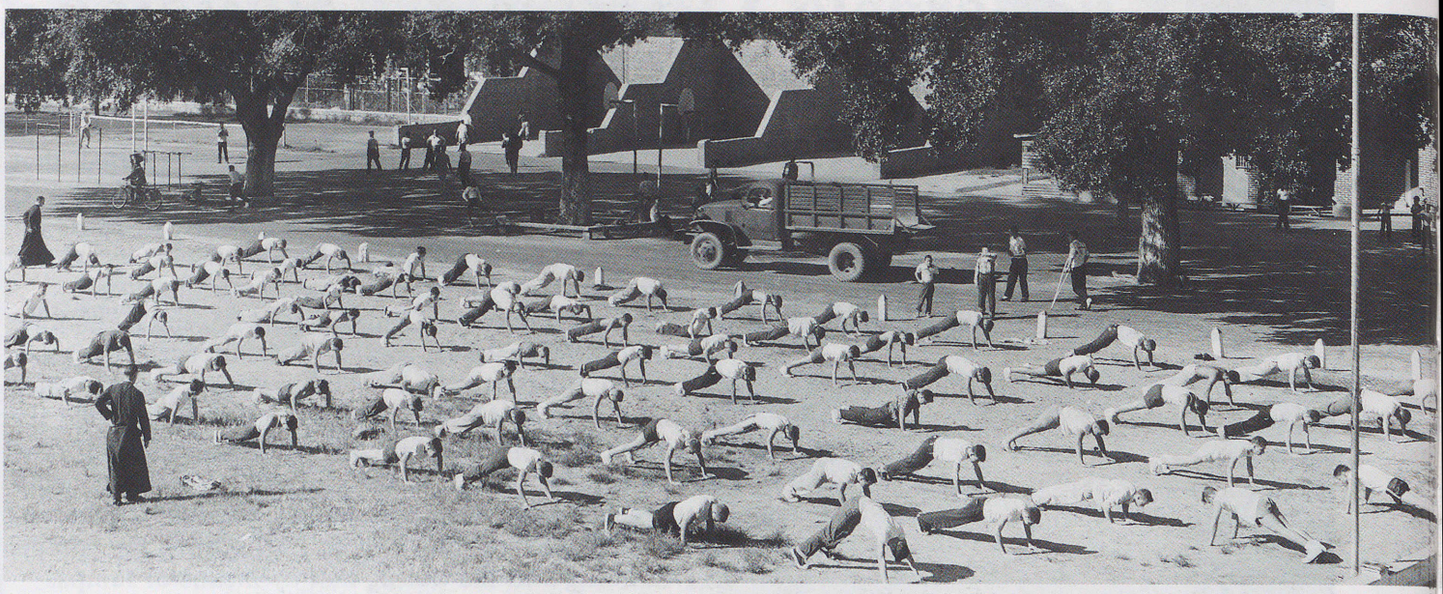
Dr. Marion Wolfe '23, outstanding track star at St. Stanislaus and later at Tulane where he completed his medical studies, started caring for St. Stanislaus students shortly after he finished two years of internship at Charity Hospitial in 1934. In 1961 Dr. Wolfe replaced Dr. Thomas Quigley as school physician, and from that time until his retirement in 1986, Doc Wolfe became a familiar figure walking out onto the Rock-A-Chaw football field with his cane to check injured players. Many a SSC grad remembers Doc leaning over the table in the infirmary to sew him up or to apply one of his infamous oatmeal poultices. In 1973 Dr. Wolfe was inducted into the St. Stanislaus Hall of Fame for his service to SSC, stretching across more than half a century.

From its earliest history, SSC had available services of physicans and nurses on campus. Until 1959 the infirmary building was set apart since students with serious diseases remained on campus and sometimes had to be isolated. In 1997 the infirmary ward was incorporated into Aurelian Hall.



Dr. Wolfe examines a summer camper.

Br. Cecil Hebert drills a 1957-58 class in calisthenics in the school yard while others enjoy handball and tennis.



Yearbooks Capture Campus Life in 50s

Pictured on this double page spread are photos copied from *The White Cap* highlighting various aspects of student life around campus at SSC during the second half of the 1950s.

Started in 1956 the student yearbook *The White Cap* portrayed well the life of Stanislaus students during its five years of publication. Student editors, advised by Brothers Celestine Algero and Jean Sobert, learned the basics of layout and design as well as the importance of meeting deadlines. Meanwhile, Br. Godfrey Albert taught students how to take and develop photographs. These *White Cap* yearbooks supplemented the school newspaper *The Rock-A-Chaw* advised in the 1950s by Brothers Rian Messonnier, Damian Rodriguez, and Celestine Algero. Both student publications consistently won awards for good journalism.





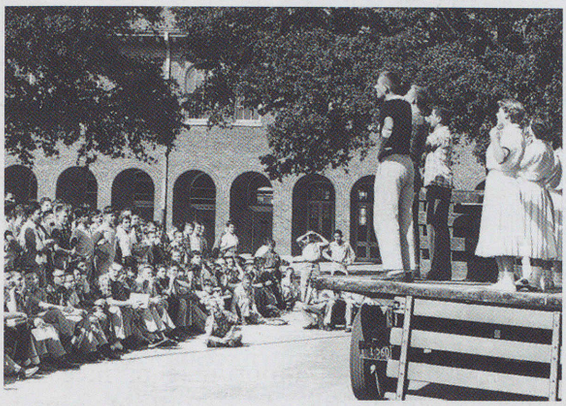
Above: Brothers walk with their classes along Hancock St. in the 1957 Christ the King Procession and lead the boys in reciting the rosary. In front is Br. Philip Lewis, athletic director, with his senior class.

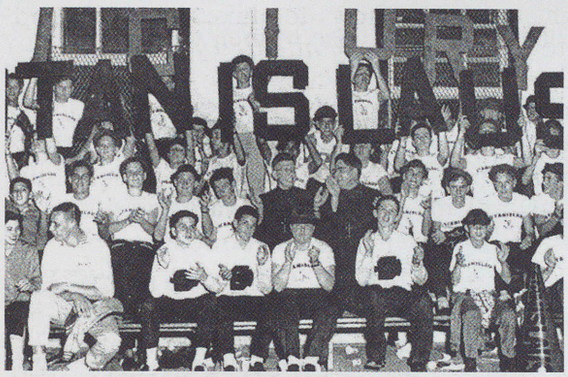


Above right: Assisting Father Robinson in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the St. Stanislaus school chapel are the officers of the Altar Boy Society for 1955-56. From the left: James Grace, Edsel Aucoin, Charles Carriere, and Jerry Darby.

Right: Br. Andries Chayko leads his seventh graders down Union St. during the 1957 Corpus Christi Procession during which the Blessed Sacrament was carried through the streets under a canopy.



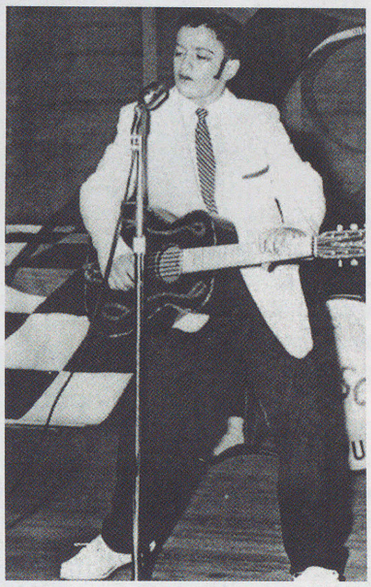




Parades & Processions

Every *White Cap* pictured SSC students, not just the Band, parading and processing through town on many occasions. Students marched in the Veteran's Day Parade and the Memorial Day Parade. For the homecoming parade, students drove decorated cars in a motorcade. Only the band and young players marched in the annual Flea-Fly Classic Parade.

Then too there were the many religious processions. Aside from an occasional funeral procession in which students took part, there were the All Souls' Day procession to the cemetery for a prayer service, the St. Stanislaus Day procession to the grounds of the Day School for a prayer service at an outdoor altar under the oaks, and the processions through town for the feasts of Christ the King and Corpus Christi.



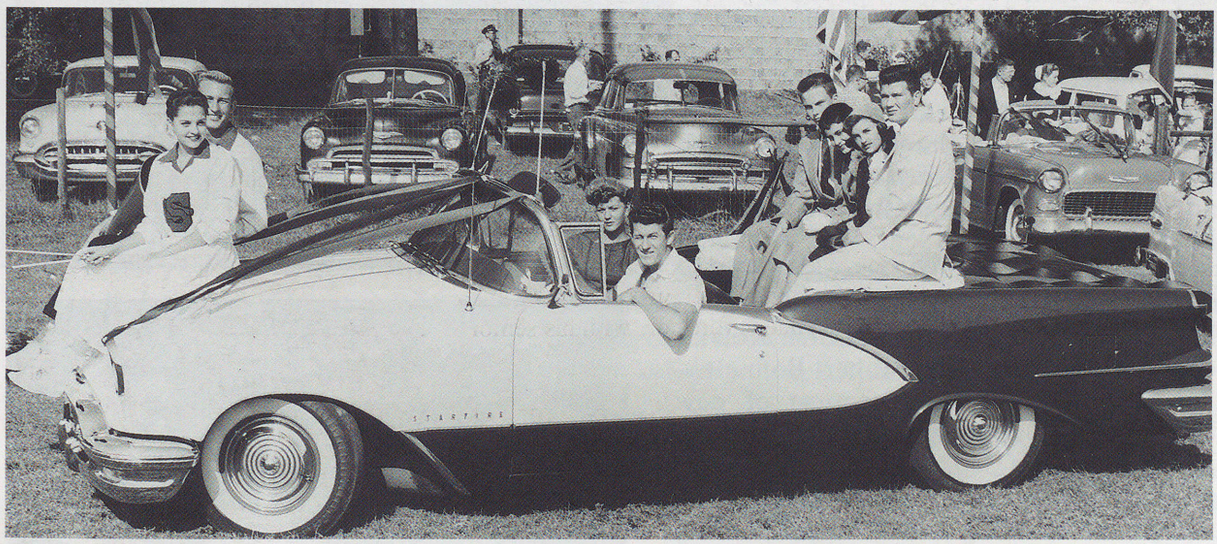
Top left, down:

In 1958 these SSC boys showed more interest in cars from the '20s than in the "modern" ones of the '50s.

This outdoor pep rally in 1956 near the old gym in the school yard was typical of many such rallies in the '50s.

Freshmen Racket-Chaws led by Brs. Jean and Damian chant the Victory March in the SSC gym in a home game against Pass High in 1958.

Left: Sophomore Emile Babin won first place in the 1959 Talent Show with his cool pantomime of *Sweet Little Sixteen* by Chuck Berry.

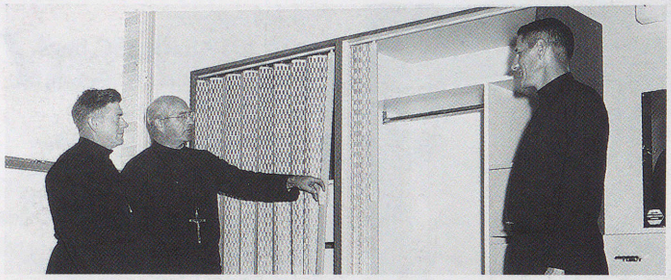


As the 1956-57 homecoming motorcade arrives at SSC stadium, cheerleaders Flo Morris and Wayne Babin ride on hood of a new Starfire convertible while four members of the homecoming court sit on top of the back seat: William Gowland, Lynette Kergosien, Julie Blanchard, and Donald Youngs.

Major Changes Characterize '60s

In 1959 when Br. Hugh Ponthieux became president, he did not dream that SSC was destined to become the largest Catholic boarding school for boys in the country. It was severely overcrowded and needed new facilities, so he dropped the 4th Grade in 1960, and by 1965 he had reduced enrollment to 231 boarders and 143 day students. The Brothers then debated whether to continue the dorm and decided to build a new and larger one rather curtail that much needed ministry.

When Br. Flavian Udinsky arrived as principal 1962, he modernized methods of scheduling classes and grading, making use of data processing. Students were given an unstructured period to study or relax during a seven-period day. He integrated the student body, and introduced the *Alpha* and *Beta* honor rolls.



Br. Philip, resident student director, Br. Roland, president, and Br. Lee, principal, look at lockers in new dorm, 1966.

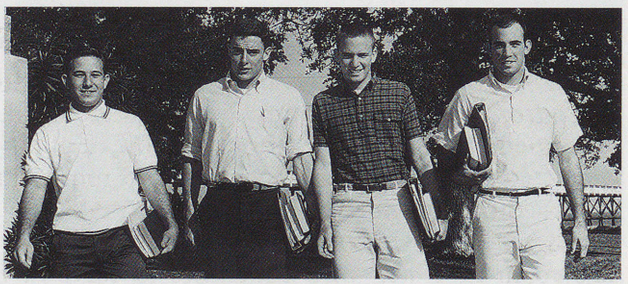
Br. Lee Leads School For 10 Crucial Years

When Br. Lee Barker took over as principal in 1966, SSC faced effects of significant civil rights changes in the country and major religious changes in the Church after the Second Vatican Council. During an unprecedented 10-year tenure as principal, Br. Lee calmly led the faculty and student body through these changes. With much help from the SVDs at the local seminary, the faculty and dormitory were quietly integrated in 1967 without fanfare or incident. The Religion program was overhauled and the chapel modified to accommodate the new liturgy.

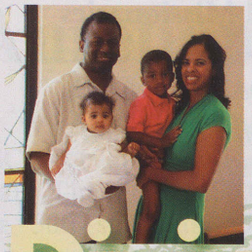
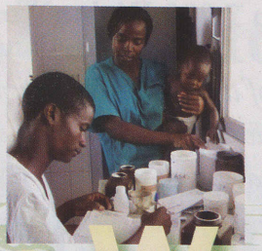
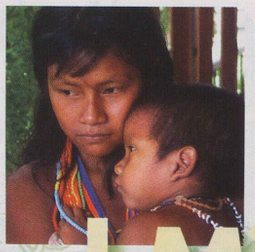
Working with three presidents--Brs. Roland Smith, Pierre St. Pierre, and then Hubert Bonnette--Br. Lee set St. Stanislaus on a course of new growth. The number of resident students increased from 215 to a capacity of 300, and total enrollment grew from 380 to 640. Br. Lee dealt well with the many challenges of building a new school, hiring lay staff, inviting OLA girls to classes at SSC, and helping older Brothers retire. In 1989 Br. Lee was inducted into the SSC Hall of Fame.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1948	Two-story pier built, $50,000
1949	New Dining Hall constructed
1953	Chapel, gym buildings renovated New Field House completed Camp celebrates 25th year
1954	Centennial Celebration
1956	First *White Cap* yearbook
1959	Infirmary building completed
1964	Independent State Football Champions, also in 1967 Juniorate building constructed
1966	Aurelian Hall dorm completed First Afro-Americans enrolled
1967	First full-time women teachers
1968	First *Reflection* yearbook National Honor Society chartered
1969	Hurricane Camille damages school Resident seniors allowed cars on campus
1970	Library and new pool completed
1971	New track completed at stadium
1972	Present school, student union built
1974	Br. Romuald Band Hall dedicated
1977	Br. Peter Memorial Gym finished

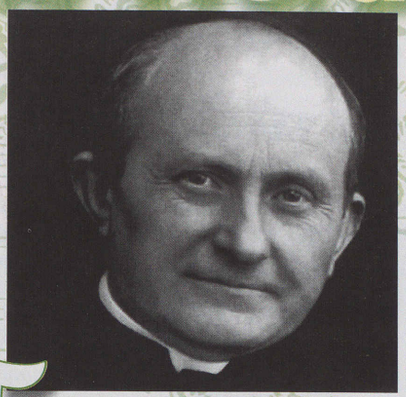


Junior B class officers for 1961-62: Ken Monti, Mike Mashburn, Hugh Bohne, and Colden Jones



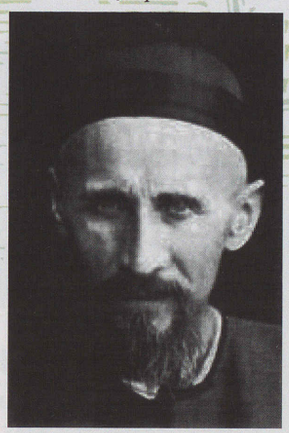
Divine Word Missionaries



pictured above:
Society of the Divine Word founder
St. Arnold Janssen

1875

pictured below:
First Divine Word Missionary
sent to China,
St. Joseph Freinademetz



1905

OUR WORLDWIDE MISSION

Working in more than 70 countries and on every continent except Antarctica, Divine Word Missionaries is one of the largest religious orders in the Roman Catholic Church with nearly 7,000 members worldwide.

The Society of the Divine Word, popularly known as Divine Word Missionaries, work first and foremost where the Gospel has not been preached at all or where the local Church cannot survive and grow without the help of missionaries. This missionary mandate takes us to some of the poorest and most remote areas in the world.

The needs of the local Churches where Divine Word Missionaries serve are vast and diverse. From operating large universities, colleges and seminaries, to staffing hospitals, clinics and specialized communities to care for lepers, to running trade schools and shelters for street kids, to assisting local communities in building chapels—Divine Word Missionaries serve the poorest parishes in large cities of the developing world and the most remote jungle areas in places like the Amazon or Papua New Guinea.

Founded in 1875, Divine Word Missionaries continues to be one of the few communities to show steady growth in its membership. Today more than 1,000 seminarians await their final stages of formation before ordination.

The Society of the Divine Word was founded by St. Arnold Janssen, a German priest working in the Diocese of Muenster. While the government was expelling religious orders and repressing the growth of the Church in Germany, Janssen was creating a missionary training center across the border in Steyl, Holland. Within four years, the first Divine Word Missionaries were sent to China. This included St. Joseph Freinademetz.

In 1905, Divine Word Missionaries began work in African American parishes in Mississippi. In the midst of prejudice and much opposition, these farsighted men opened a seminary specifically to train African Americans for the priesthood. Their dreams and efforts would open doors for African American Catholics and change the American Catholic Church.

MISSIONARY SERVICE IN NORTH AMERICA



Here in the United States, Divine Word Missionaries work in a variety of ministries. We staff many African American parishes, especially in the Southern United States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas), as well as in Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Trenton, Ashbury Park, Los Angeles and Oakland.

We also serve predominantly Hispanic parishes in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, California, New Jersey and Illinois. Divine Word Missionaries also staff Vietnamese parishes in Missouri, Indiana and New Jersey.

Divine Word Missionaries began working in the African American community in 1905. The first group were mainly German missionaries sent from the Society's headquarters in Techny, Illinois. At that time, there was no seminary to train African Americans for the priesthood.

Within a short period of time, it became clear to the SVD missionaries that opening a seminary for African Americans was a high priority. At that time, there was no seminary to train African Americans for the priesthood.

They met with great resistance from the Church hierarchy and for a few years their plans were thwarted. But in 1919 the local bishop in Mississippi gave permission for the Society to open a seminary. In 1920 a seminary began in Greenville, Mississippi, but moved to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi in 1923, becoming St. Augustine Seminary.

In 1934 the first four African American priests were ordained at St. Augustine's in Bay Saint Louis. Up until the 1970's the only place an African American man could study for the priesthood was at St. Augustine's in Bay Saint Louis.



ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CLERGY ORDAINED IN THE UNITED STATES – INCLUDING NINE SVD BISHOPS – HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY THE SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD



More than 7,000 Divine Word Missionaries and still growing...

Society of the Divine Word is the only major congregation of religious men which has shown steady growth over the last 30 years

Today

Divine Word Missionaries Worldwide

EUROPE

Rome (International Headquarters), Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, the former Republics of Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Italy, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Ireland, Spain and Portugal.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada, the United States and Mexico

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama

CARIBBEAN

Antigua, St. Kitts, Anguilla, Montserrat, Cuba and Jamaica

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay

ASIA

China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, East Timor, Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam

OCEANIA

Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

AFRICA

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Tanzania, Chad, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Togo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa

Divine Word Missionaries
199 Seminary Drive
Bay Saint Louis, MS 38520-4626

1-228-467-6414

www.svdsouthusa.com

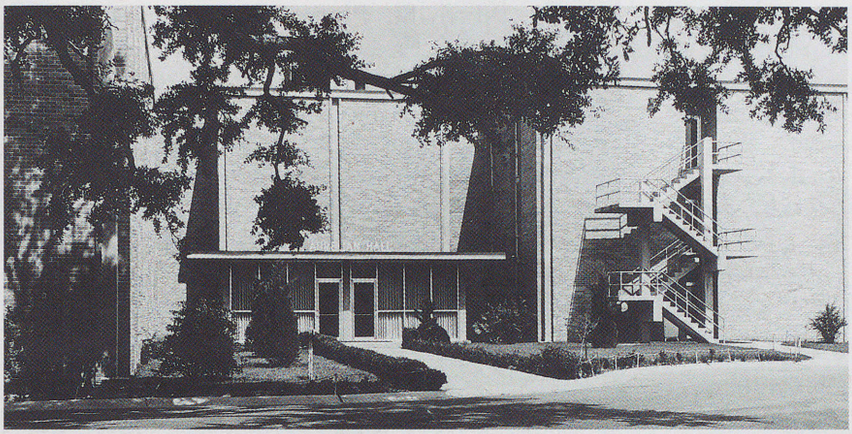
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi is the site of the historic seminary established for the training of African American men to the priesthood and religious brotherhood. The headquarters of the Divine Word Missionaries in the United States is located here. It is home to retired priests and brothers of the Society of the Divine Word.

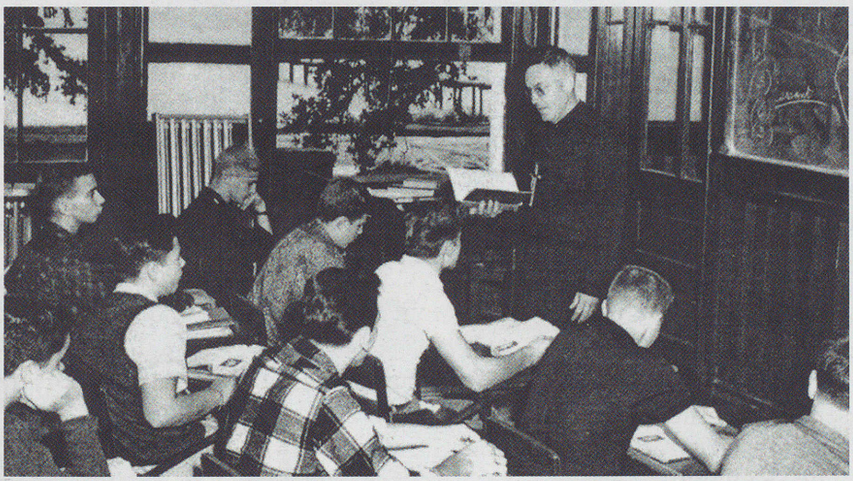
Also on site is the William J. Kelley Retreat Center that provides spirituality programs and ecumenical meeting space on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Despite severe damage wrought by Hurrican Katrina the Retreat Center has been completely renovated. A wonderful place for prayer and renewal.

Aurelian Hall Houses Students in 1966

When the 194 resident students arrived at SSC in 1966, they happily moved into Aurelian Hall. The new $800,000 air-conditioned facility for 300 students consisted of two three-story wings connected on each floor by adjoining hallways. Bishop Joseph Brunini blessed the modern brick building on November 20, 1966. During the ceremony Br. Hubert Bonnette, provincial superior, dedicated the new residence hall to Br. Aurelian Piton as a small token of appreciation for his outstanding example and continuous service at St. Stanislaus since 1903.

The residence hall contained 90 semi-private rooms, each with a shower and bathroom. Four grammar school students shared rooms on the ground floor, and high school students occupied the other two floors with three to a room. Rooms were furnished with a bed, wardrobe, desk, and chair for each student. All hallways in the sleeping areas were carpeted. Aurelian Hall included a large lobby and two offices on the first floor. Also, each floor had two offices and bedrooms for prefects as well as TV rooms, snack bars, lounge areas, and conference rooms.





Br. Loyola's 1960 class enjoyed a great view of the Bay while learning Latin.

Dorm students present Br. Joseph with a power drill for Christmas in 1969.



1st *Reflection* Yearbook Honors Br. Loyola

In 1968 the SSC yearbook resumed publication under the title *Reflection* with Br. William Boyles as faculty adviser. Students dedicated their first edition to Br. Loyola Mattingly, well respected teacher of Religion, Latin, French, and social studies. The dedication noted that after school, Br. Loyola could be found riding a tractor on a nearby field. He retired from the classroom in 1982, and continues to serve at SSC, in carpentry and landscaping, taking special care of the pecan orchard. The 2004 school year will mark his 50th year of service at SSC.

Br. Joseph, A Legend Among SSC Boarders

Br. Joseph completed 40 years as senior prefect in 2003. First assigned to SSC in 1963, Br. Joseph Donovan, then known as Br. Pius, continues to serve as a prefect at SSC where he has become a living legend.

Frank Lagarde '66, a former student now a parent, summed up the feelings of most former students when he said that *"Br. Joseph has a gift that allows him to connect with young men in a tough and caring way, which instills in them discipline, self-respect, and a positive attitude towards God and family."*

The large number of former resident students present for Br. Joseph's induction into the Hall of Fame in 1997 gave powerful testimony to the positive influence that he has exerted upon hundreds of young men.

Million Dollar Damage

Hurricane Camille Crashes into College

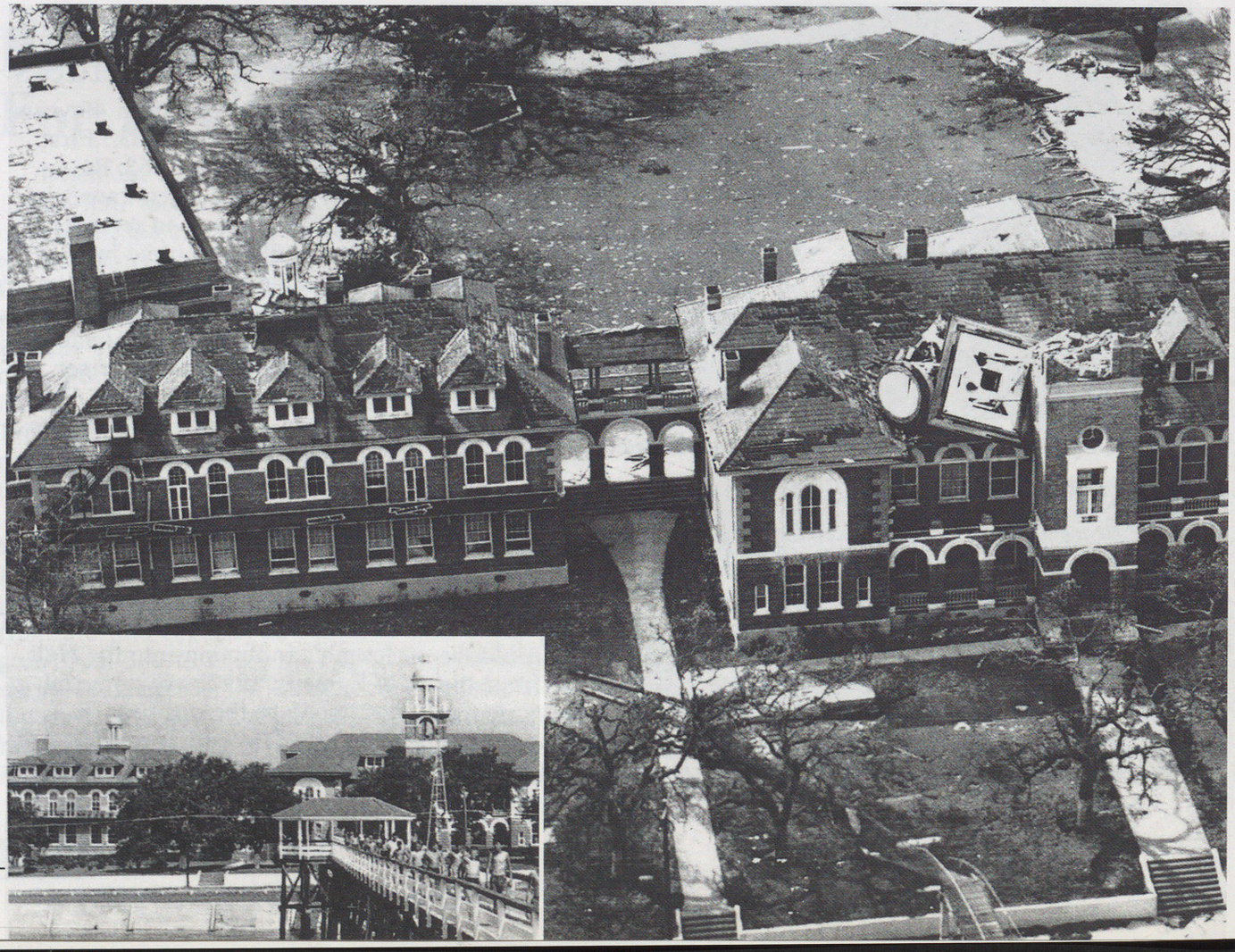
Packing winds in excess of 190 mph, Hurricane Camille slammed into St. Stanislaus College the night of August 17, 1969, pushing ashore a 32-foot tidal surge that had picked up the pier and its pilings, using them as battering rams to wash away the bottom floor of the infirmary building. High winds and rain damaged every building, especially the three front ones, stripping slates from roofs, toppling the cupola, and blowing out windows.

Having room in Aurelian Hall since there were only 24 football players on campus at the time, the 27 Brothers at St. Stanislaus took in 125 refugees to ride out the storm. Fortunately no one staying at the College was hurt during the worst storm ever to hit the Gulf Coast. With thousands left homeless, President Nixon declared a major disaster. Bay St. Louis was under martial law with a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Brothers and volunteers worked with national guardsmen and the Army Corps of Engineers in the massive clean-up that included restoring communications and basic utilities, feeding thousands, sheltering the homeless, treating the injured, and removing tons of debris.

Brothers worked around the clock so that the start of the 1969-70 school year was delayed only two weeks while waiting for utilities to be restored. The August 31 issue of *The Times Picayune* reported: *"Seventy people are housed at the school now. When they can return to their homes, classes will begin."* The article noted that *"Venerable old St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis is accustomed to disaster...and has a long tradition of endurance behind it. Even Camille won't shatter that."*

Br. Pierre St. Pierre, College president as of June, reported over a million dollars in damage, not to mention the loss of irreplaceable photographs from the yearbook room that was swept away. Not easily discouraged, Br. Pierre engaged Brothers in immediate plans for a modern first-class educational facility that would allow for a larger enrollment. Two years earlier the school had launched a 10-year capital campaign and building program, the largest thus far in its history. Now, the timelines simply had to be accelerated.

Inset in photo below shows school before Hurricane Camille toppled the main cupola, ripped the roof, and took the pier.







Kleinpeter-Gibbens Library Dedicated

Completion of the library which occupied the first floor of the chapel building was delayed by Camille which forced work efforts to be put into immediate repairs. The new library was dedicated May 24, 1970, by Bishop Joseph Brunini, shown in the photo on the left with Br. Pierre, president; Mr. Leon Kleinpeter, Jr.; and Br. Lee, principal. The library was dedicated in memory of Mr. Leon Kleinpeter, Sr. '13 and his wife Mrs. Lillian Gibbens Kleinpeter. Their children Vincent, Ben '45, Tom '41, Mike, and Mrs. Daniel Wray made the new library possible.

Olympic Pool

Constructed in 1970 at a cost of $55,000, SSC's Olympic-size swimming pool on Bookter Street has been a blessing. Resident students, summer campers, local children, and the swimming teams at SSC and OLA all make use of the facility.

To help finance the construction of the swimming pool, Br. Pierre, president, sold 20 acres of unused land on the west side of Old Spanish Trail for $30,000. That land was developed for public housing to help people after the hurricane.

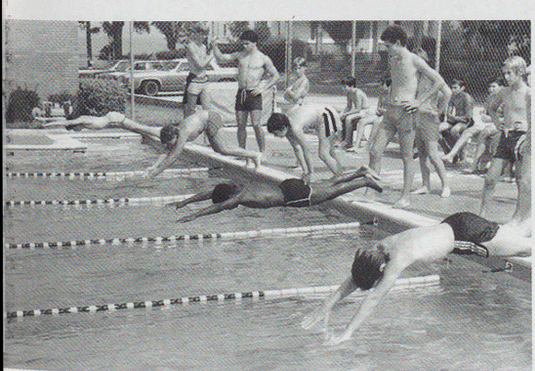
Over the years, the person most associated with the pool has been Br. Albert Ledet pictured above left in the pool. In 1970 Br. Albert began a 25-year career as swimming and life-safety instructor for the school and camp. During summer camps, he taught the Red Cross life-saving courses to the counselors, and then instructed student campers in swimming. Also, during his free time, Br. Albert opened the pool to the children in Bay St. Louis area and gave them swimming lessons as well.

Swimming Team Debuts in 1971

Br. Albert Ledet coached the first SSC swim team in 1970-71, and the College hosted the first interscholastic state tournament in its new pool in 1972. SSC finished 1st in diving and 3rd in swimming in that state sanctioned competition. SSC then dropped the swim team because at that time the MS State Athletic Association did not sponsor swimming as a sport, and some schools did not allow black students to participate in AAU events.

In 1992 after the state sponsored swimming as a sport, Mrs. Leslie Thornton, a former Olympic swimmer, organized a SSC swim team. In 1993 Donald Sherrill '94 won the state title in the 50-yard freestyle.

In 1996 Mr. Joe Gex '88 took over as coach, leading the swim team to a 5th place finish in state and earning Coach of the Year honors. His 1996 and 1998 teams won the Gulf Coast Championship and took second place in South State.



Left: One of two swim meets sponsored annually for summer campers

Br. Andries Chayko chats with a brother at the counter, far left, while supervising the Resource Center.



Pressure Put on Progression Program

Hurricane Camille put pressure on the SSC progression program to replace immediately buildings that it damaged beyond repair. Launched in 1967, the ten-year progression program spearheaded by Br. Celestine Algero, development coordinator, got off to an excellent start. The inaugural issue of the alumni newsletter published in October 1968 reported: *"St. Stanislaus ended the first year of its ten-year Progression Program with a total of $404,000 in pledges."* The newsletter thanked the alumni who helped with phase one, the new dormitory, and reminded them of the $2.8 million goal for phase two, noting that some of the top-priority projects were already underway: renovation of the chapel to accommodate changes of Vatican II, major improvements at the stadium, and construction of a new play area.

Most interesting in the 1968 newsletter is the list of projects to be begun as soon as possible. At the head of the 1968 list was a new classroom and administration building. On the front page of the issue just above a sketch of the proposed Classroom-Administration Building was the statement: *"The next building slated for construction is the three-story classroom and administration building depicted below."* Thus, a full year before Camille damaged the old school buildings in 1969, plans were already being developed for a new school to accommodate an expanding enrollment that reached 480 students in 1968-69. With the old school damaged and with the loss of three classrooms that were washed away with the bottom floor of the infirmary building, pressure was on to step up the pace of the campaign and building program.





Above left: Br. Lee and students watch as Br. Loyola Mattingly retrieves a 1903 SSC catalog from the cornerstone of the old school. The cornerstone now graces Diboll Plaza which was created behind the school in 1993 by the Diboll family. *Above right:* Students enjoy a break in their new student union. The snack bar replaced the old canteen or candy shop.

New $1.6M School Completed in 1971

Hurricane Camille allowed SSC to obtain a small business loan of $500,000 for 30 years at only 3% interest. With that loan, plus $548,626 in insurance money, and the funds pledged through the progression program, SSC managed to complete its much needed new school building in 1971.

Designed to accommodate 600 students in regular classrooms, the modern building included on its second floor a large resource center named the Br. Alexis Klee Memorial Resource Center, an audio-visual room, and various laboratories for sciences, languages, reading, and art. To reduce noise in the school, student lockers were outside.

All administrative offices were housed on the first floor. So were six recreation rooms for resident students as well as a spacious student mall, later named in honor of James Smith '45, a Hall of Fame inductee in 1977.

The new building was located directly behind the old school buildings which were demolished and removed in 1972. Designed by architects George Saunders and John Lawrence of New Orleans, the pebbled stone front of the new school, built to withstand hurricanes, offered little exposure to the Bay, featuring instead narrow side windows.









Above: Br. Pierre and Br. Lee place a sealed time capsule containing documents from the cornerstone of the 1903 building along with 1971 materials into the new base for the Sacred Heart statue. *Above left:* Students in the new reading lab work with tapes while Br. Canisius Schell coaches Curtis Stevens. *Left:* Students play foosball, pinball, and pool in the rec rooms of their student union.

SSC Staff Takes on New Look in '70s

For more than 100 years, Brothers wearing cassocks taught almost every class at SSC. A few lay men had been hired to assist with music since the 1890s and with athletics since 1915. By the mid-70s as student enrollment increased and the number of elective courses expanded, several men and women had joined the staff.

During Br. Lee's principalship from 1966-76 not only were school facilities upgraded to make SSC one of the finest educational institutions in the country, the faculty, student body, and the curriculum underwent radical changes. During these years, an average of 40 Brothers served on the faculty, but the days of only Brothers teaching were over. And most of those Brothers who still taught no longer wore a cassock.

In 1967 members of the Society of the Divine Word from nearby St. Augustine Seminary accompanied their seminarians to SSC, greatly assisting the school not just in racially integrating the staff and student body, but in bringing a wealth of talent and experience to the campus. One such teacher, Rev. Terry Steib, religion teacher at SSC from 1967-76, was ordained a bishop in 1984 and named Bishop of Memphis in 1993. In 1998 Bishop Steib was inducted into the SSC Hall of Fame.



Rev. Terry Steib, SVD, distributes Holy Communion in the hands of SSC students in the early '70s, following the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council.

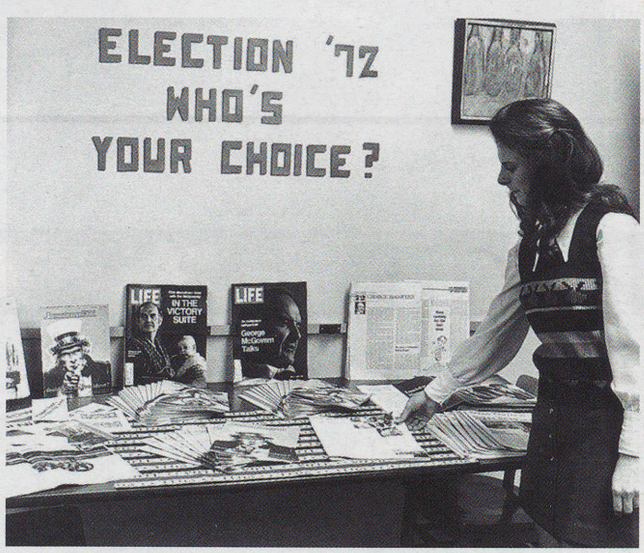


In 1966 the present dean of the faculty, Mr. James Thriffiley, pictured above with one of his physics students in the early '70s, began his teaching career at SSC. The following year Mmes. Helen Currie and Dot Kersenac began careers of 18 and 20 years at SSC. Mr. Ron Engel started a 20-year span at SSC in 1968. Secretaries Mmes. Beverly Zimmerman and Mary McCarthy joined the professional staff in 1967 and 1970, each serving at SSC more than 25 years. In 1972 two women still at SSC in 2003 joined the faculty--librarian Mrs. Virginia Gex and reading teacher Miss Susan Ryan. By 1975 the professional staff at SSC consisted of 43 Brothers, 12 lay men, and 12 lay women.

Cost of Operations Soar

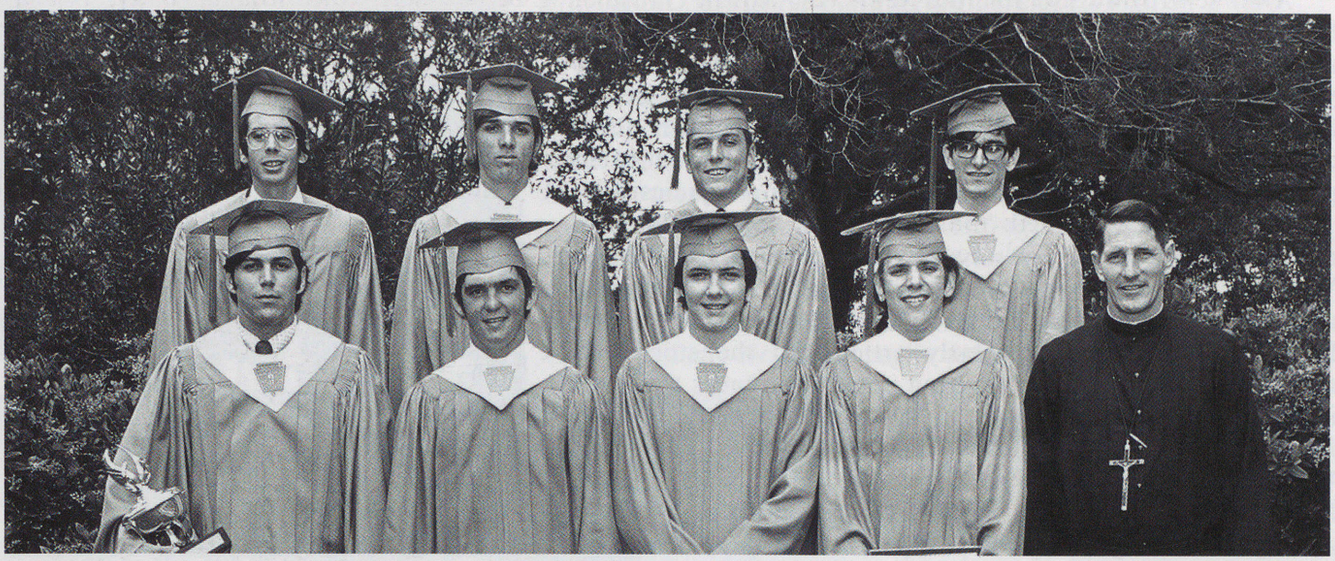
Rampant inflation, new air-conditioned facilities, and the increase in lay personnel caused the cost of operating SSC to soar during the 1970s. Br. Hubert Bonnette, president in 1975, sought to keep tuition affordable, cover expenses, and pay good salaries to employees--always a delicate balancing act.

The 1976-77 SSC school budget set annual tuition, room, and board for 300 resident students at $2,780 and tuition for 325 day students at $550. Ten years earlier tuition was $1,400 for resident students and only $225 for day students. Ironically in 1976-77, St. Stanislaus had the greatness number of Brothers ever--45. That number would steadily decline.



In 1972 Mrs. Susan Estrade, then Miss Ryan, began her long career at SSC, starting as a reading instructor.

Award Winners at SSC's 118th graduation ceremony with Br. Lee, principal, May 1972
Front Row: Ralph Aucoin, salutatorian and president's trophy; David Worrel; Pierre Leger, character cup; Chris Taylor
Back Row: Tommy Fain, Tommy Moran, Pat Davenport, and Vic Frankiewicz, valedictorian and character cup



Brothers Begin Retiring from Classroom

Br. Athanasius Mooney, who suffered a stroke while teaching in 1964, was just one of many Brothers who retired because of age or infirmity during the 1960s and 1970s at St. Stanislaus. The list of those Brothers who taught many years at SSC and served in support capacities, especially after retiring from the classroom, include Brothers Leon Stock, Andries Chayko, Philip Lewis, Hilbert Mooney, Firmin Brashear, Pascal Ackerman, Quintin Ledet, Claude Petrus, Gunther Aucoin, Aubert Rebman, Canasius Schell, and Roy Reinecke among others.

In 1976 there were 45 Brothers at SSC, the highest number ever, but seven of them were infirm or semi-retired, a sign of things to come in the 1980s.

Third 50 Years

	Presidents		Principals
1954	Br. Roland Smith	1954	Br. Linus Myers
		1958	Br. Philip Lewis
1959	Br. Hugh Ponthieux		
		1961	Br. Dacian LeBlanc
		1962	Br. Flavian Udinsky
1965	Br. Roland Smith		
		1966	Br. Lee Barker
1969	Br. Pierre St. Pierre		
1975	Br. Hubert Bonnette		
		1976	Br. Paul Montero
		1977	Br. Eldon Crifasi
1978	Br. Mark Thornton		
		1980	Br. Paul Mulligan
		1984	Br. Celestine Algero
1985	Br. Celestine Algero		
1986	Br. Paul Montero	1986	Br. Paul Montero
		1991	Dr. Michael Ryan
1994	Br. Donnan Berry		
		1996	Br. Ronald Talbot
1998	Br. Ronald Talbot	1998	Br. Ronald Hingle



After his retirement, Br. Athanasius Mooney, a 1972 SSC Hall of Famer, continued to give powerful witness to young students in the '70s by his joyful presence and interest in them.

Br. Aquin Expands Development Efforts

After serving at SSC for four years, Br. Aquin Gauthier became Alumni Director in August 1970. He enthusiastically brought a new vision to the role. Over the next 23 years, he worked tirelessly with the SSC alumni to re-define the concept of development at a time when tuition alone could no longer support Catholic education. He educated graduates about the need for endowments and legacies.

Br. Aquin expanded the data base for the alumni newsletter and gave it a new professional looking format. With the newsletter and other publications, with class and alumni reunions, and with special area meetings and fundraising dinners, he clearly articulated the story and mission of St. Stanislaus, inviting potential donors to invest in the education it offered. In 1972 he hosted a luncheon for 80 businessmen in Jackson and arranged for Governor William Waller of MS to address them on the need to raise funds for a new gym and band room at Stanislaus. That same year, he organized the first induction of ten men into the school's Hall of Fame.

In 1974 Br. Aquin hosted a gathering of 125 friends and alumni in Lafayette, LA, and had Governor Edwin Edwards as keynote speaker. He arranged for presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford as well as Trent Lott to write letters congratulating Hall of Fame inductees. One such letter noted that *"St. Stanislaus has long been the symbol of character training and development which the Brothers of the Sacred Heart consider so important."*

For SSC's 125th anniversary in 1979, Br. Aquin published a brief pictorial history of the school and sent it to all the alumni. Special celebrations on the Gulf Coast, in New Orleans and Lafayette all highlighted the accomplishments of the school and its needs for the future. Br. Aquin deserves much of the credit for funding the capital improvements of the seventies by his extraordinary efforts in public relations and development. The personal attention that he afforded benefactors assured them of the worthiness of their investments and the mission of SSC.

Below: Gov. Edwin Edwards, Br. Aquin, Lafayette Mayor Kenneth Bowen at a 1974 fundraising dinner in Lafayette
Middle: Class of 1951 at SSC reunion in 1971
Bottom: Br. Hubert Bonnette, SSC president, congratulates Louis Claverie '21 and Louis Blaize '22 on their induction into the SSC Hall of Fame at the 1976 banquet.









Br. Philip, right, directs Sidelines Club members in 1976 as they haul away part of the Great Wall of Rock-a-Chaw Stadium.

Br. Philip Directs Sidelines Club, Maintains Stadium, Athletic Field

Br. Philip Lewis, former principal, teacher, coach, camp and athletic director at SSC, took over as moderator of the Sidelines Club in 1970. Since its founding in 1936, club members met weekly and sponsored a wide range of activities for the betterment of the athletic program. For example, in 1971 to fund a new rubberized asphalt track for the SSC stadium which it proudly maintained, the Sidelines Club sponsored projects that included a turkey shoot, Sugar Bowl raffle tickets, basketball benefit games, seafood dinners, as well as their annual fair. After Br. Philip's death in 1994, the school dedicated the SSC stadium to the memory of this Brother who served 43 years at St. Stanislaus, 20 of them maintaining the stadium and athletic fields.



Band Bounces Back in '74

Under the leadership of Mr. Davis Williams, in photo at left, the St. Stanislaus band again developed into an award winning band, reminiscent of Br. Romuald's years as director. In 1974, the year that the new band hall was dedicated to Br. Romuald, the SSC marching band earned its first superior rating at the State Band Festival in Jackson since 1957. The concert band earned an excellent rating, and 12 band members won superior solo and ensembles awards.

Mr. Williams had begun rebuilding the small SSC band in 1967. Besides marching at football games and various parades, the band also went to marching festivals and performed concerts. Mr. Williams got a big break when girls from Our Lady Academy began taking some classes at SSC in 1971. In 1972 the OLA girls joined the band for the first time, and numbers increased that year to 36. By 1974 there were 55 students in the band. The 1975-76 SSC concert band shown on the left in their spacious band hall included 19 OLA students. The St. Stanislaus Band once again began earning superior ratings.

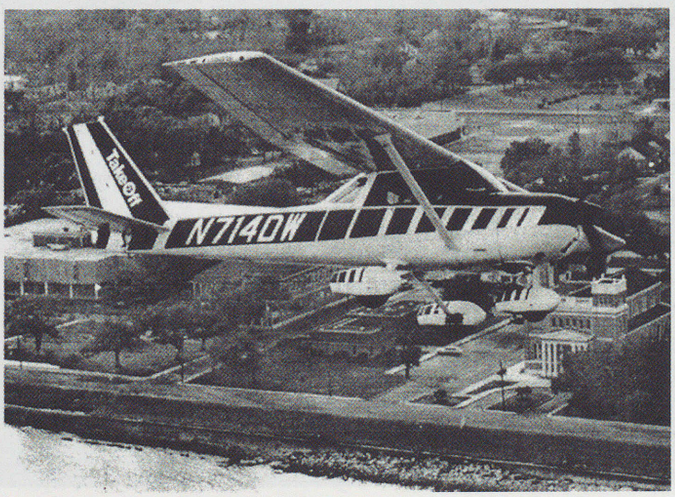


Students Enjoy New Extracurricular Clubs in '70s

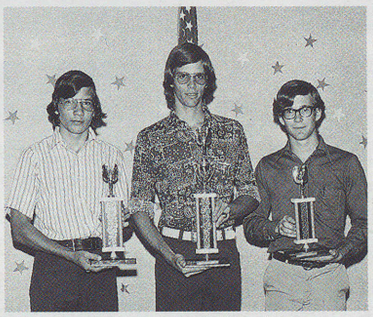
Besides the usual extracurricular activities such as Student Council, National Honor Society, Cheerleaders, Drama, Debate, and Yearbook, several new clubs for students made the SSC campus scene in the seventies. Some of these catered to special interests such as Mr. Ron Engel's Taxidermy Club, Br. Bennet's Weightlifting Club, Br. Pierre's Chorus, Br. Noel's Skyhawks Flying Club, and Br. Eduardo's Radio Club which remains active today.

Some activities supplemented the academic program such as the French and Spanish Honor Societies, the Chess Club, Br. Hilbert's Art Club, and Mr. Thriffiley's Math and Science Team which won 1st place in the 1978 state quiz bowl.

Some clubs were service oriented such as the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, Br. Canisius's Project Do, and the Altar Servers. One popular service started in 1970 that still exists on campus is the Last Week at Stanislaus bulletin board where student photographers post pictures of the previous week's activities around campus.



Left: Students fly Stan Aero planes over SSC. Br. Noel started the Skyhawk Flying Club in 1975, and in 1977 he began teaching aviation as an elective.



Left: Winners of the 8th Annual Marathon, co-sponsored in 1975 by the Student Council and the Sideline Club, pose with their trophies: Ronald Reightler, 2nd; James Schott, 1st; and John Lassere, 3rd.

Br. Aquin Expands Development Efforts

After serving at SSC for four years, Br. Aquin Gauthier became Alumni Director in August 1970. He enthusiastically brought a new vision to the role. Over the next 23 years, he worked tirelessly with the SSC alumni to re-define the concept of development at a time when tuition alone could no longer support Catholic education. He educated graduates about the need for endowments and legacies.

Br. Aquin expanded the data base for the alumni newsletter and gave it a new professional looking format. With the newsletter and other publications, with class and alumni reunions, and with special area meetings and fundraising dinners, he clearly articulated the story and mission of St. Stanislaus, inviting potential donors to invest in the education it offered. In 1972 he hosted a luncheon for 80 businessmen in Jackson and arranged for Governor William Waller of MS to address them on the need to raise funds for a new gym and band room at Stanislaus. That same year, he organized the first induction of ten men into the school's Hall of Fame.

In 1974 Br. Aquin hosted a gathering of 125 friends and alumni in Lafayette, LA, and had Governor Edwin Edwards as keynote speaker. He arranged for presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford as well as Trent Lott to write letters congratulating Hall of Fame inductees. One such letter noted that *"St. Stanislaus has long been the symbol of character training and development which the Brothers of the Sacred Heart consider so important."*

For SSC's 125th anniversary in 1979, Br. Aquin published a brief pictorial history of the school and sent it to all the alumni. Special celebrations on the Gulf Coast, in New Orleans and Lafayette all highlighted the accomplishments of the school and its needs for the future. Br. Aquin deserves much of the credit for funding the capital improvements of the seventies by his extraordinary efforts in public relations and development. The personal attention that he afforded benefactors assured them of the worthiness of their investments and the mission of SSC.

Below: Gov. Edwin Edwards, Br. Aquin, Lafayette Mayor Kenneth Bowen at a 1974 fundraising dinner in Lafayette
Middle: Class of 1951 at SSC reunion in 1971
Bottom: Br. Hubert Bonnette, SSC president, congratulates Louis Claverie '21 and Louis Blaize '22 on their induction into the SSC Hall of Fame at the 1976 banquet.









Br. Philip, right, directs Sidelines Club members in 1976 as they haul away part of the Great Wall of Rock-a-Chaw Stadium.

Br. Philip Directs Sidelines Club, Maintains Stadium, Athletic Field

Br. Philip Lewis, former principal, teacher, coach, camp and athletic director at SSC, took over as moderator of the Sidelines Club in 1970. Since its founding in 1936, club members met weekly and sponsored a wide range of activities for the betterment of the athletic program. For example, in 1971 to fund a new rubberized asphalt track for the SSC stadium which it proudly maintained, the Sidelines Club sponsored projects that included a turkey shoot, Sugar Bowl raffle tickets, basketball benefit games, seafood dinners, as well as their annual fair. After Br. Philip's death in 1994, the school dedicated the SSC stadium to the memory of this Brother who served 43 years at St. Stanislaus, 20 of them maintaining the stadium and athletic fields.



Band Bounces Back in '74

Under the leadership of Mr. Davis Williams, in photo at left, the St. Stanislaus band again developed into an award winning band, reminiscent of Br. Romuald's years as director. In 1974, the year that the new band hall was dedicated to Br. Romuald, the SSC marching band earned its first superior rating at the State Band Festival in Jackson since 1957. The concert band earned an excellent rating, and 12 band members won superior solo and ensembles awards.

Mr. Williams had begun rebuilding the small SSC band in 1967. Besides marching at football games and various parades, the band also went to marching festivals and performed concerts. Mr. Williams got a big break when girls from Our Lady Academy began taking some classes at SSC in 1971. In 1972 the OLA girls joined the band for the first time, and numbers increased that year to 36. By 1974 there were 55 students in the band. The 1975-76 SSC concert band shown on the left in their spacious band hall included 19 OLA students. The St. Stanislaus Band once again began earning superior ratings.

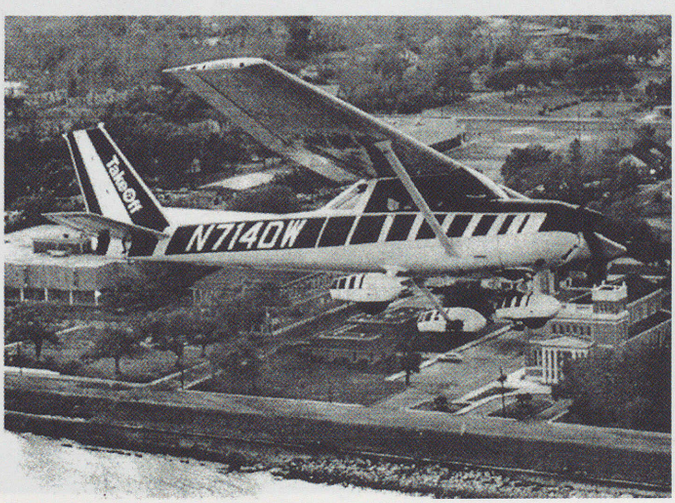


Students Enjoy New Extracurricular Clubs in '70s

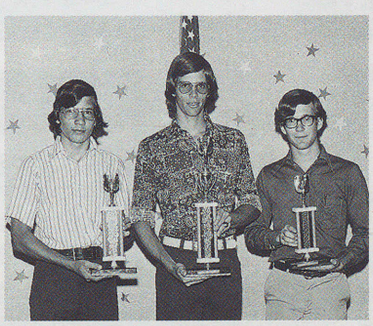
Besides the usual extracurricular activities such as Student Council, National Honor Society, Cheerleaders, Drama, Debate, and Yearbook, several new clubs for students made the SSC campus scene in the seventies. Some of these catered to special interests such as Mr. Ron Engel's Taxidermy Club, Br. Bennet's Weightlifting Club, Br. Pierre's Chorus, Br. Noel's Skyhawks Flying Club, and Br. Eduardo's Radio Club which remains active today.

Some activities supplemented the academic program such as the French and Spanish Honor Societies, the Chess Club, Br. Hilbert's Art Club, and Mr. Thriffiley's Math and Science Team which won 1st place in the 1978 state quiz bowl.

Some clubs were service oriented such as the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, Br. Canisius's Project Do, and the Altar Servers. One popular service started in 1970 that still exists on campus is the Last Week at Stanislaus bulletin board where student photographers post pictures of the previous week's activities around campus.



Left: Students fly Stan Aero planes over SSC. Br. Noel started the Skyhawk Flying Club in 1975, and in 1977 he began teaching aviation as an elective.

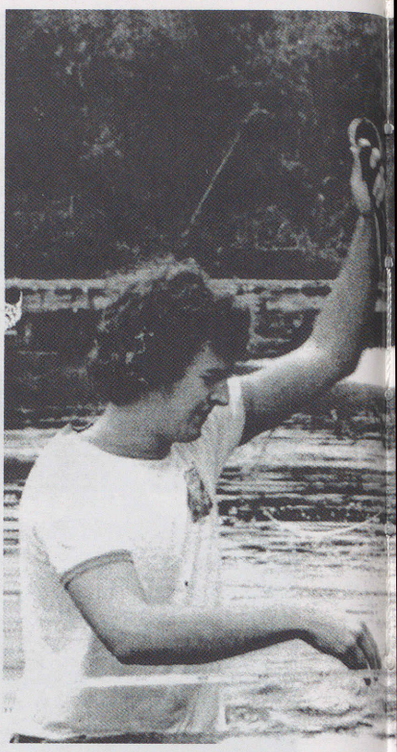


Left: Winners of the 8th Annual Marathon, co-sponsored in 1975 by the Student Council and the Sideline Club, pose with their trophies: Ronald Reightler, 2nd; James Schott, 1st; and John Lassere, 3rd.

Learning Reaches Far Beyond Confines of SSC Classrooms

The seventies saw the introduction of more audio-visual materials in the learning process with the use of televisions, overhead projectors, and videocassette recorders. A more hands-on approach was taken to teaching and learning, and some classes moved from being teacher centered to student centered. While St. Stanislaus resisted trendy movements in education such as modular flexible scheduling and a non-graded curriculum, block scheduling and sorting of classes into A, B, and C groups became a thing of the past. Elective courses such as Br. Hilbert's Art, Br. Alan's Creative Writing, Mrs. Dot Kersanac's business courses, and Mr. Buddy Pitalo's Driver's Ed and Mechanical Drawing became popular. Br. Noel got students high with his aviation course. Teachers made concerted efforts to relate learning to life and to move their teaching beyond the classroom.

One rewarding innovation happened in 1971 when SSC boys joined with Bay High girls to stage the musical drama *My Fair Lady*. Mrs. Beverly Zimmerman of SSC teamed up with Mr. Burt Barrett of the Little Theater to direct the play. SSC's band directed by Mr. Davis Williams provided the music. *The Sea Coast Echo* reviewed the two-night performances staged at St. Augustine Seminary's gym as *"a brilliant success."*

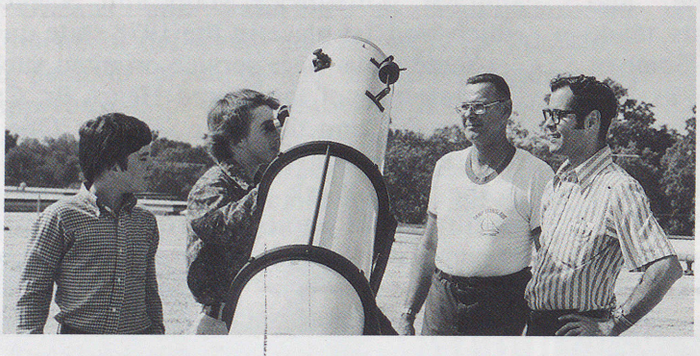


Right: Br. Hilbert teaches a student the potter's art in 1972.

Below: Students Randy Santa Cruz and Walter Kerly test a new ten-inch reflector telescope on the school roof in 1975 with science teachers Br. Leon Stock and Br. Eduardo Baldioceda.

Bottom: Keith LeBeaux, Brad Morris, and Paul LaChappelle look on as Eliza Doolittle (Lynn Phillips) sings to Steve Scott in *My Fair Lady* in 1971.









Left: Br. Malcolm Melcher, longtime chemistry teacher at SSC, works with students George Briggs and Mike Kinard in gathering statistics to measure the velocity of Catahoula Creek during a science field trip in 1975.

Below: Br. Harold Harris and 8th Grade Earth Science students in 1977 gather around Bruce Cabell and Kirk Ladner in the school yard as they prepare to explode a volcano that they created for a class project.





Scholarships Testify to Students' Achievements

Twenty seniors of the class of 1978 earned scholarships for academics, music, and athletics. Pictured above with principal Br. Eldon Crisfasi, at left, and guidance counselor Mr. James Thriffiley, at right, are: Danny Hayden, Kenny O'Neal, John Davis, Stephen Jones, Steve Treutel, Victor Lachin, Anthony Carter, Mike Rooney, Paul Treutel, Mike McGinn, Nicholas Dahn, Eric Schott, Bill Kergosien, Gene Rogers, Todd Edwards, Phillip Mueller, Bobby Fayard, Nicholas Haas, and George Gremillion.

Every year about one fourth of the graduating class at SSC earned scholarships to a number of private and public colleges and universities throughout Mississippi and Louisiana. In addition, it was not uncommon for SSC grads to earn appointments to the military academies or scholarships to prestigious universities. The Guidance Department, which was established in the mid-sixties, expanded in the seventies to cover testing, personal guidance, career counseling, and scholarship applications.

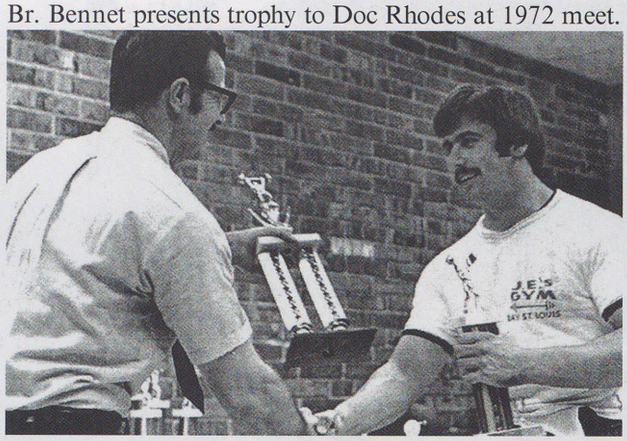
Br. Bennet Builds Body, Soul

Introduced at SSC in 1950, weightlifting grew in popularity. Br. Bennet Bishop's St. Stanislaus Weightlifting Club in the '70s averaged 65-70 members who worked to increase their size, strength, and self-confidence in keeping with the Brothers' philosophy of a sound mind in a sound body.

In 1972 the SSWLC hosted the SAAU Mississippi Open Power Lift for the 6th time. A highlight of the meet occurred when 1970 national champion Joseph "Doc" Rhodes, SSC class of '65, set an unofficial world record totaling 1600 pounds.

SSC hosted the AAU Senior National Power Lift Championship in 1979. The two-day meet attracted lifters from 29 states and was covered on national television by NBC.

Br. Bennet presents trophy to Doc Rhodes at 1972 meet.



30-Year Recap of Rock Sports, 1948-78

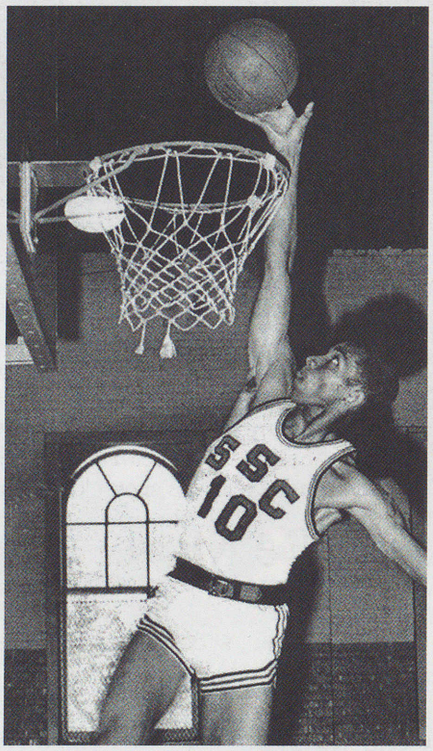
In February 1950 SSC students voted to replace the Thursday holiday with Saturday to give them the weekends free. Br. Alexis Klee, president, then allowed resident students to go home monthly on weekends. That change, popular among the students, had a powerful impact on participation in athletics and band. While SSC teams held their own in the four major sports, they found district honors harder to achieve, especially against powerful public schools. SSC still produced many star athletes during this period.

Coach Bob Cuccaro's basketball teams from 1967 to 1980 consistently won 20 games per season. Curtis St. Mary '70 scored 680 points his senior year, 53 in the Bay High game. Gerard Lemuel '74, All-Conference 1972-74, averaged 21.6 points a game. Other top players of the period include Levy and Charles Ladner '49, Kenny Wittmann '57, Ronnie Artigues '60, Luis Ingles '60, Sylvan Ladner '68, Paul Gravolet '69, Chuck Genin '75, and Paul Brown '77.

In baseball Ronnie Artigues stood out as an all-round performer while Quinten Cuevas set a school batting record of .461 in 1958. In 1969 Mike Gemelli topped it with an average of .521, a record that stood for 18 years. Coach Fred Weems led SSC to its first 20-win baseball season in 1979.

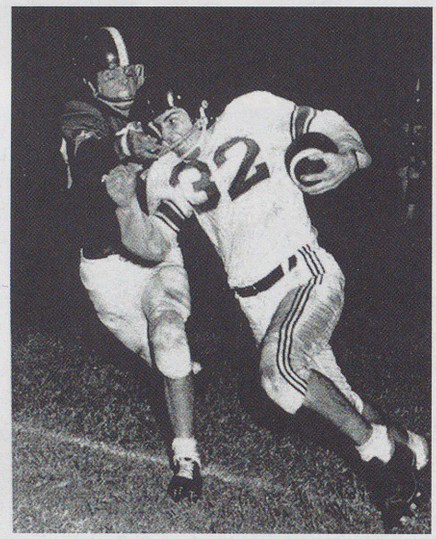
In 1958 and 1959 the SSC track team won the Mississippi Southern Relays. The Rocks also won the Pascagoula River Conference titles in 1975 and 1977-80. In field SSC produced a state champion in shotput in 1969. Mike Meyers' put of 54'6" still stands as a school record. Other top track stars for the period include Willys Rhodes '57, Alfredo Vasquez '57, Mitchell Decuir '58, Keith Pfister '58, J. E. Loiacano '60, Dewey Hoda '74, Steve Longo '77, Paul Brown '77, Martin and Gene Hoda '77.

On the gridiron, the Rocks continued to churn out stars. In 1956 Willys Rhodes was named All-State and played in the All-Star game. In

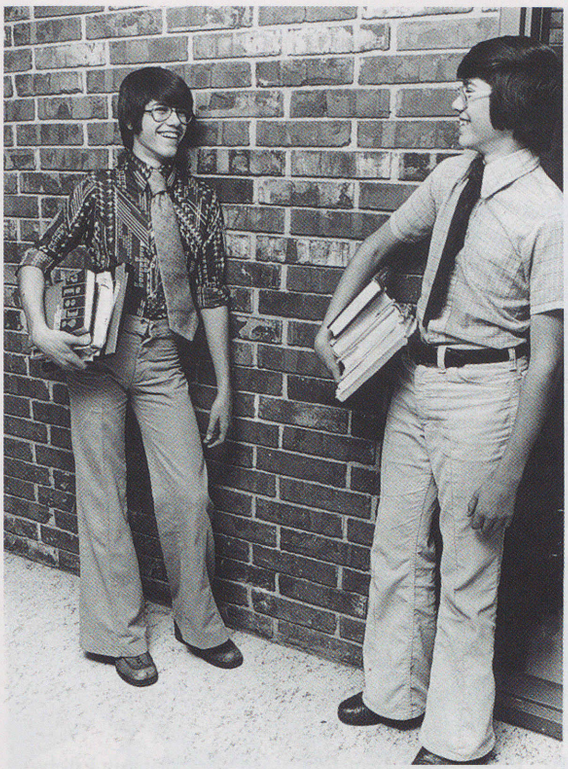


SSC cage star Curtis St. Mary '70 stuffs one in the old gym.

As a freshman J. E. Loiacano '60 rushes in a 1956 varsity game against the Gulfport Commadores.



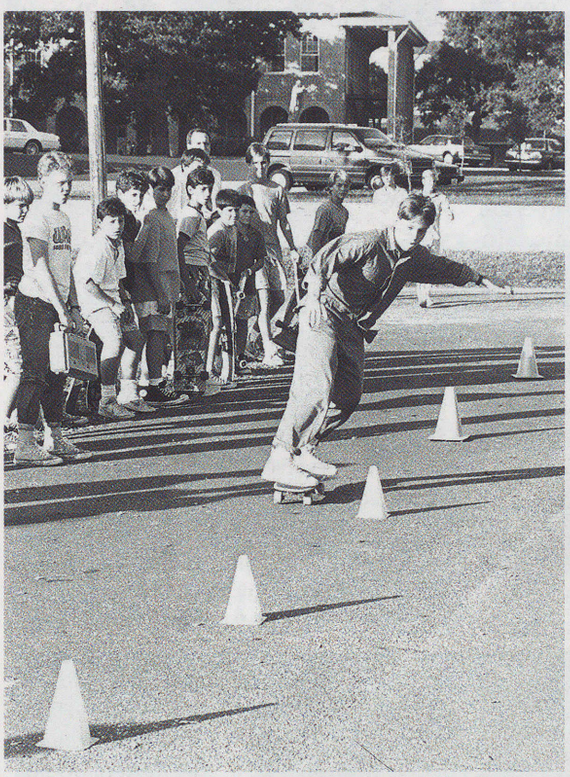
1959 seniors Ronnie Artigues and J. E. Loiacano starred for the Rocks. At Pearl River Community College, they helped their team win the National Junior College Championship. While at Mississippi State, Loiacano made All-SEC. In 2002 Loiacano '60 was named to the All-American Football Foundation Hall of Fame. In 1964 and 1967 the SSC Rocks under Coach Billy Murphy won the Independent State Football Championship. Ronnie Genin '68 rushed for 1,031 yards in a single season while Paul Gravolet '69 tossed 24 touchdowns to set a school record. In 1969 the Rocks played Bay High, winning 15-8. It was their first game since the Rocks had beaten the Tigers 45-0 in their very first match-up in 1948. In 1972 Rick Kerosien set a new rushing record at SSC with 1,418 yards.



Students in Seventies Sport Fancy Fashions

Students at SSC in the '70s sported colorful plaids and stripes, fancy bell bottom trousers and dressy jeans, cowboy boots or elevated heels, long hair and Afros--all as part of the '70s teen fashions. It was the era of long, flowing hair and short skirts for the girls.







Top left: Freshmen David and Mark Mead '79, one of seven sets of identical twins at SSC in 1975-76, show the '70s style. Students still carried their books in their arms, bookbags not yet popular.

Above: SSC homecoming court of 1974 Donna Peterman, Lori Sallinger, Queen Lisa Worrel, Jan Gex, and Yolanda Piernas appear in the short skirts typical of the mid-seventies.

Skateboarding Proves to Be More Than a Passing Fad

Skateboards made their debut on the SSC campus scene in 1975, replacing the unicycles so popular the year before. Many fads and crazes hit the campus and last only a few years. Such was the case with kites, frisbees, hacky sacks, rollerblades, and scooters. But skateboards have remained popular among students for decades.

In the seventies, students set up obstacle courses for skateboarding such as the one in the photo above left, never dreaming that 30 years later skateboarding would become an Olympic sport. Sneakers, black and white, were still in vogue since Nike and Reebok had not yet made the fashion scene with fancy footwear.

Living the Charism

From President to Cook--Serving Others

When Br. Pierre, former president of SSC, returned as "chief cook and bottle washer" in 1979, he showed very powerfully what a life dedicated to the service means. He graciously shared the Brothers' charism, the gift of love in action, that characterizes a Brother's life. He brought the same energy and enthusiasm to his role of directing Food Services as he had to directing St. Stanislaus. By 1981 he had enlarged and renovated the kitchen and dining rooms, naming the building in memory of Br. Alban Tucker, director of Food Services at SSC for 23 years until 1979.

A master cook known for his sense of humor and practical joking, Br. Alban concealed a very generous heart with a gruff outward demeanor. He followed well in the tradition of Br. Cyran Boulard, who served an incredible 45 years at the College as cook and steward, often rising at 3:00 a.m. to begin his day's work. His meals for SSC sports banquets in the 1920s were praised in the newspapers, and once the students carried him on their shoulders in celebration when it was announced he was reassigned to the Bay.

Br. Pierre carried on the tradition of serving fine meals, more than 1,200 meals daily to faculty, students, and Brothers. More than that, by his example and exhortation, Br. Pierre shared with his staff of 20 kitchen and dining room workers the Brothers' charism of ministry. When he retired from the kitchen in 1996, Br. Pierre confidently turned over the keys to Mrs. Faye Knight and Mrs. Pat Genna whom he had prepared to carry on the tradition.

St. Stanislaus has long been blessed with dedicated and loyal workers in the kitchen, laundry, and maintenance departments. Lay persons who served more than 25 years include Messrs. Mose Singleton and Ralph Lanaux, along with Mmes. Eoline and Anette Holmes, Hilda Fayard, Gaynell Acker, Iris Morel, and Aline Beal. Celebrating 35 years of service at SSC in 2001, Mrs. Beal continues to serve the dining room, remembering every Brother's birthday by baking her special apple cake. Not to be forgotten is Mr. Robert Graham, a small person barely four feet tall, who worked in the laundry from 1971-90 spreading good cheer among the students. In 1980 Br. Lee named him an honorary Brother and assured him that he would be buried in the Brothers' cemetery.

Below: Br. Pierre, standing left, with some of his kitchen crew in 1991: Mary Parker, Gaynell Acker, Dina Benoit, Vera Barnes, Pat Genna; seated: Dinah Hawkins, Edgar Benoit, Peggy Saucier, Linda Johnson, and Aline Beal

Bottom: During 24 years at SSC, Br. Louis-Joseph served 17 years as dean of admissions, recruiting, interviewing, and screening candidates for the dormitory.

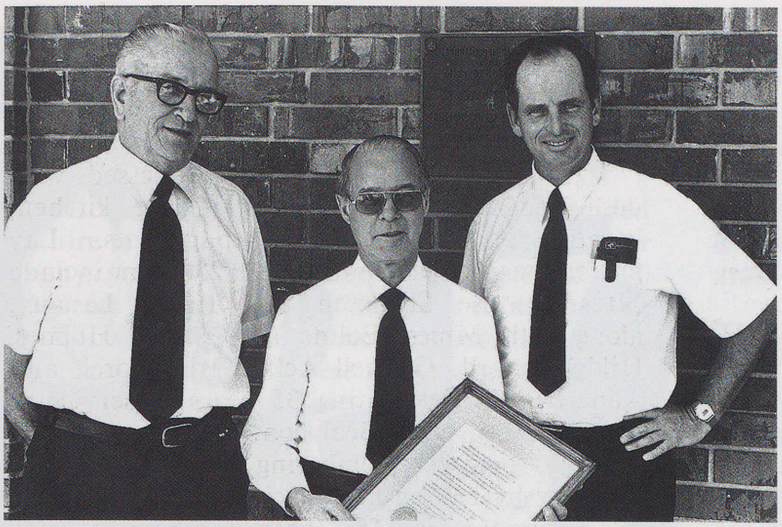




Men of Many Hats at SSC

Br. Pierre was only one of many Brothers to move graciously in and out of authority roles at SSC. Active in the early '80s were Brothers who served at various times as teacher, coach, prefect, athletic director, dean of discipline, director of admissions, assistant principal, and principal: Brs. Louis-Joseph Richard, Hugh Ponthieux, Philip Lewis, Paul Mulligan, Neri Falgout, Noel Lemmon, and Joseph Donovan.

The ease and selflessness with which these Brothers moved from role to role for the good of the school illustrated very poignantly to the lay staff that the charism of the Brothers was one of service, placing all gifts and talents at the disposal of the school community and viewing all roles not as positions or promotions but as opportunities to help achieve a common goal.





Brothers Begin to Change Administrative Structures

Brother Mark Thornton, former provincial, served as president of SSC from 1978 to 1985 with three different principals: Brs. Eldon Crifasi, Paul Mulligan, and Celestine Algero. At that time the local house council, which was elected by and from among the Brothers living at St. Stanislaus, served as the school board. Until 1985 the provincial council named the president, principal, and director at St. Stanislaus. In 1985-86 the provincial council separated the role of president from that of director of the Brothers; named Br. Celestine Algero president and Br. Albert Ledet director; and charged the SSC Board of Directors, the house council, to name the principal.

Above left: SSC president Br. Mark Thornton and principal Br. Paul Mulligan present Br. Maurice Ratte, superior general visiting from Rome, with a declaration from the mayor of Bay St. Louis in April 1981.
Left: Seven Brothers, all principals at the time, explained *EM&M* to the 1986-87 SSC faculty: Brs. Ray Hebert, E. D. White; Eldon Crifasi, Vandebilt; Foster Zibilich, Our Lady of Victories; Paul Montero, SSC; Ivy LeBlanc, Br. Martin High; Ronald Talbot, St. John; and Francis David, CHS in Baton Rouge.

Educational Mission and Ministry Becomes Guiding Force in School

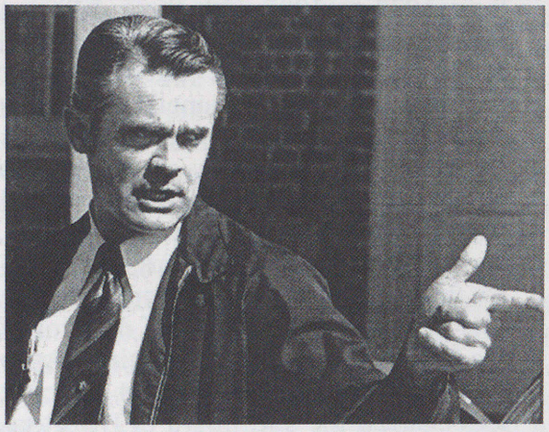
Br. Celestine Algero, the first ever president and principal of SSC in 1985-86, saw to the professional publication of *Educational Mission and Ministry* as a member of the province's Principal's Committee. The document of the Brothers' apostolic vision was included in faculty handbooks of the Brothers' schools. Determined that the booklet would not simply sit on shelves, the principals in the province planned and presented in-service workshops in the various schools in 1985-86. These workshops shaped the future of the Brothers' schools, keeping alive their charism by sharing it with the lay faculty.

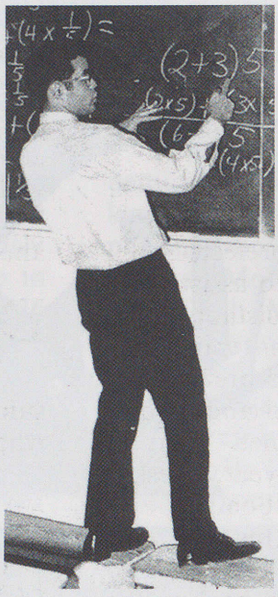
As a follow-up in 1986-87, the principals sponsored a series of round-table discussions for academic assistants, deans of students, religion department heads, athletic directors, guidance counselors, and librarians. By bringing together such key people from the different schools to share practical ways of implementing the vision of document, the principals achieved their goal of giving the document life.

At St. Stanislaus, as well as at other schools throughout the province, concerted efforts were begun to share the teaching heritage of the Brothers. These efforts were enthusiastically welcomed by lay staff members who began to understand that they were truly partners with the Brothers in the educational ministry of the school.

More and more, lay men and women began to serve in roles that until the mid-1980s were traditionally filled only by Brothers. SSC, rich with a long history and steeped in many traditions, faced new challenges which called for a shift in attitudes and a refinement of work habits.

Br. Joseph, below, served many years as dean of discipline. Br. Eduardo, right, taught 7th Grade Math in 1970. Br. Raymond Sylve, far right, coached the 8th Grade basketball team in 1974. They did all of this while prefecting fulltime.







Profiles of Four Long-term Prefects

From the 1960s through the '70s, '80s, '90s, and into the new millennium, four Brothers prefecting in the dorm have tallied up 155 years at SSC by 2003: Brs. Joseph Donovan, Eduardo Baldioceda, Raymond Sylve, and Neri Falgout.

Br. Joseph, prefect of juniors and seniors since 1963, completed 40 years in the dorm in 2003. He has always treated his residents as young men, giving them as much freedom and responsibility as they could handle. Most seniors agree that Br. Joseph is like a father to them, easy to talk to, and someone to go to for help when in trouble. For many years, he has also served as part of the administrative team, primarily as dean of students.

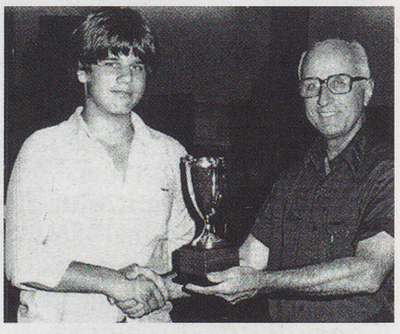
Br. Eduardo has 40 years of service at SSC, 37 of them in the dorm. He also taught math, computers, and other subjects most of those years. In 1981 he set up SSC's first computer lab. Since 1978 he has been moderator of the Radio Club. *"Br. Eduardo really cares and listens to your problems,"* acclaim his many former boarders.

Br. Raymond has served most of his 35 years at SSC in the dorm. *"The kids in our dorm really respect Br. Raymond,"* remarked Mark Latino winner of the Character Cup in 1978 and 1980. *"He likes sports and plays a lot for his age. The kids enjoy it when he enters the games. He can work with a choose-up team and make everyone a happier and better player."*

Br. Neri, who served at SCC for 25 years and prefected the 6th and 7th Grade dorm for 15 years during the '70s and '80s, taught his young boys the value of discipline without taking the fun out of their lives. With utmost patience and love, he conducted study halls, refereed intramurals, and managed a well-run dorm, making it all look easy.

These four Brothers, all quite capable and experienced, were beginning to tire by the mid-1980s, even with the help of other Brothers to assist them. Br. Paul Mulligan, who became principal of SSC in 1980 after serving for 11 years as prefect, continued to live in the dorm because he realized firsthand the heavy load that the Brother prefects carried. Brs. Ray Kuhn, William Leimbach, Dwight Kenney, and John Abate took turns in the '80s serving as head prefects, but the number of Brothers available for the prefecting ministry was declining rapidly.





Br. Eduardo, shown on the far right in photo above left, lets some Boy Scouts try out the radio equipment in his dorm in 1989. In the photo on the right, Br. Neri presents the Character Cup to 7th Grader Chris Mader in 1985.

Program Begun to Train Lay Prefects

In the mid-1980s the Brothers made a crucial decision. Rather than cutting back on a ministry essential to St. Stanislaus, they decided to hire lay people to share in that ministry. For many years, five Brothers had prefected 300 students with the help of Brothers to assist them part-time. Now full-time lay assistants were hired, and some of these were soon trained to take on the responsibilities of a head prefect.

In 1986 Messrs. Cecil Spotswood and Robert Memleb became the first two laymen hired as assistant prefects. The following year, Messrs. Ken Kenney, Bob Libby, David Schommer and Sonny Ruckstahl joined the prefecting staff. In 1988 Mr. Ruckstahl and Coach Kenney, who completed 15 years at SSC in 2002, became the first lay head prefects. That same year, Br. Lee Barker returned to SSC in the newly created position of Director of the Residency Department. His major responsibility was to recruit and train young men to share with the Brothers the religious formation of resident students.

The dormitory was re-configured to create rooms so that assistant prefects could live there. A long-range goal to have six prefects, each with an assistant, was achieved. Prefects for 2002-2003 included Brs. Joseph and Eduardo, along with Messrs. Ken Kenney, Mike Schultz, Steve Bradley, and Freddy West. Four full-time assistants, plus ten weekend workers, helped them.

Daily Life in the Dorm

The 1988 yearbook presented a concise summary by freshman Michael Bingham '91 of what a boarder's weekday life was like.

"The boarders in Br. Eduardo's dorm lead an eventful life. We get up at 7:00 am. From 7:10-7:55 we get dressed for school, eat breakfast, and clean our rooms. At 8:07 the bell rings for school and school starts by 8:10. At 3:06 when school lets out, we go back to the dorm to get our allowances, change clothes, and get our mail. Then, at 3:25 the dorm closes and we're off to either intramurals, the library, or the rec-hall. By 4:20 the dorm is reopened and it's time for showers. From 5:30-6:30 we have study hall. After 6:30 supper, we have rec-hall until 8:00 p.m. From 8:00-8:15 we're in the chapel relaxing and reflecting upon our day. From 8:15-9:15 we have our final study hall and then it's back to the dorm to get ready for bed. At 9:45 it's lights out...a boarder's day has come to an end."

Lay prefect Mr. Tom Eldringhoff, who moderated the intramural program in 1989, introduced ultimate frisbee as an intramural sport, but touch football remained most popular. In the photo below, Jude Gattuso '90 rushes around end.



'80s Focus on Family Ties, Traditions

After the spirit of individualism that dominated most of the 1970s, there was a new emphasis on family and family values in the 1980s. Promotions for St. Stanislaus such as the ad on the right that appeared in many regional newspapers in 1987 capitalized on the fact that the College had always placed a high value on family and community. The school's public relations department very expertly presented the vision stated in the Brothers' educational mission and ministry documents to promote the school. So many of SSC's graduates had gone on to successful and happy lives that they naturally wanted their sons to share in the traditions of a school that had played a major role in their character development.

Throughout the 1980s, St. Stanislaus, the largest Catholic boarding school for boys in the country, maintained a waiting list. It balanced the old with the new, as symbolized by the SSC logo which was designed by a SSC grad of the class of 1957, Mr. Bill Argus, a successful architect living in Bay St. Louis.

460 Alumni Attend Reunion

Br. Aquin Gauthier, alumni director in 1988, declared that year's reunion in New Orleans a *"great success."* About 460 SSC grads gathered at the Jefferson-Orleans to celebrate and reminisce about the *"good ole days."* Some traveled great distances, even from Mexico, for the event. Golden jubilarians were also honored at a special Mass in conjunction with graduation in May as was the tradition at the time.

YOUR SON'S EDUCATION SHOULD BE SOMETHING SPECIAL!

St. Stanislaus — A Family Tradition

Tom Kleinpeter attended St. Stanislaus for four years of high school and graduated in 1941. The school is a tradition in the Kleinpeter family as Tom's father, Leon Kleinpeter, Sr., graduated from St. Stanislaus in 1913, and his brother Ben graduated in 1945. Since that time six other members of the Kleinpeter family have attended St. Stanislaus. Today, Tom is vice-president of Kleinpeter Farms Dairy.



At St. Stanislaus Your Son Will Receive:

- Quality Education
- Character Development
- Discipline
- Influence of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart

ST. STANISLAUS — A BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS SINCE 1854

Early Applications advisable for the 1987-88 school section

WRITE FOR FREE BROCHURE

BOARDING SCHOOL (Grades 6-12)

SUMMER ACADEMIC FUN CAMP (June-July) (Ages 9-14)

ST. STANISLAUS
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS
PHONE: 601-467-9057



FATHER AND SON alumni at 1988 reunion. *Bottom row*: Jay LaNasa '78, Tommy Kidd Jr. '78, Tommy Kidd '57, Jim Ryan '39, Mike Ryan '68, Pat Ryan '69, and Tim Ryan '71. *Middle row:* J.T. LaNasa '47, David Treutel Jr. '76, David Treutel '53, Steve Treutel '78, Jim Rafferty '78, Edgar Santa Cruz '78, Mike Haas Jr. '77, and Stephen Haas '82; *Top row*: Sonny Wolfe '49, Dr. Marion Wolfe '23, Rory Rafferty '46, Woody Santa Cruz '55, and Mike Haas '51.





SSC Grads among Brothers

In June of 1983 SSC counted seven of its grads among the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Shown above in the SSC Resource Center, they included: seated, Brs. Will McCue '49, Michael Vidrine '62, and Patrick McGinnity '64; standing, Brs. Ramon Daunis '47, Marion McCarley '30, and William Leimbach '68. Br. John Hotstream, not pictured, graduated from SSC in 1955.

All of these Brothers have served at various times at their *alma mater*, but Br. Ramon holds the record among them with 22 years as of 2003.

Br. Patrick Cousins, who graduated from SSC in 1995, is the most recent alumnus to join the Brothers. His mother, Mrs. Pat Cousins has taught math at St. Stanislaus since 1993.

Big Brother-Little Brother

Seniors adopt sixth and seventh graders as little brothers in the Big Brother-Little Brother program. In a family spirit, senior brothers help their younger brothers make it through the rough period of adjustment at SSC. Sometimes this is done simply by chatting, and each young man knows that he has a senior that he can go to with his problems.

The group photo above shows the Big Brother-Little Brother group at a field day sponsored for them in April 1989. Featured games such as volleyball, egg toss, tennis, and tug-of-war helped all to relax and enjoy each other's company while having fun. At the top left of the photo is Br. Lee, then Director of the Residency Department. Kneeling near the bottom on the far right is Mr. Mick Quinlan, then guidance counselor and since 2001 Director of Residency.

For more than 15 years the Big Brother-Little Brother program has continued to help young students adjust to life at St. Stanislaus. Along the peer counseling groups and the efforts of the Student Ministers, the Big Brother-Little Brother program has proved its worth in providing students with opportunities to reach out to one another in a family spirit in keeping with the school's goal of developing men of character.

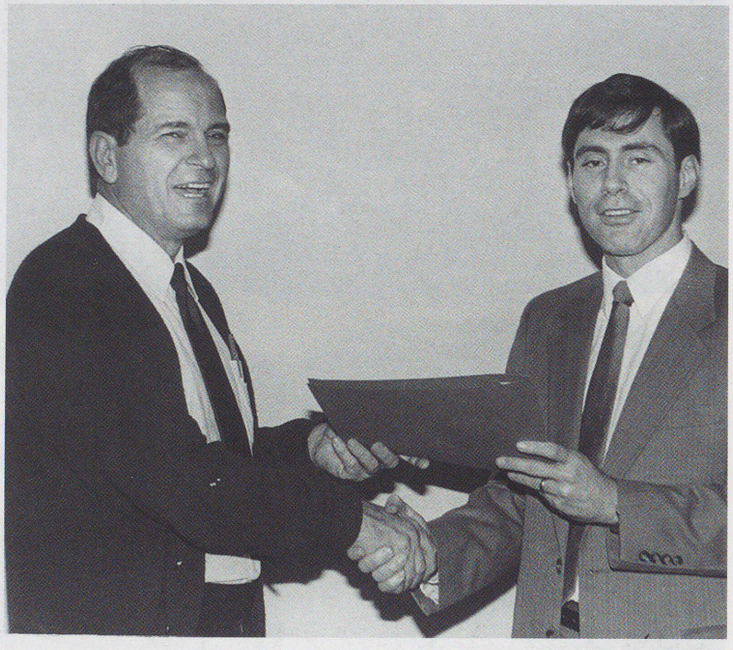
Students Practice Christian Charity

Br. Canisius Schell, coordinator and founder of Project Do, commented for the 1978 yearbook that the club's purpose was *"to give students an opportunity to put their Christian training into practice."*

More than 100 students participated in Project Do annually during a 20-year period from 1976 to 1996, sacrificing many hours of their time to tutor slow learners and to visit nursing homes and day care centers. *"There is no such thing as a 'little' kindness,"* Br. Canisius told his students. *"Find a need and fill it,"* he taught them, *"in order to develop an attitude of love."* Br. Canisius and his volunteers began working with a 4-year-old autistic child named Lizzie in 1988. For seven years, Lizzie touched the hearts of SSC students who played simple games with her to help her with motor skills.

In February 1988, Br. John Hotstream '55 started the Key Club, an international service organization, at SSC. Its first elected officers were senior Leonard Kergosien, president; juniors Jeff Aycock, vice-president; Michael Casano, treasurer; Albert Bolian and Joe Gex, secretaries.





Top right: Blake Boudreaux '87 shown with three of his charges at the Day Care Center in 1985 served three years as a Project Do volunteer.
Right: Mr. David Treutel Jr. '76, Rotary Club president, honors 1993 STAR Teacher Br. John Hotstream, left, at a Rotary Club meeting.



Br. Dwight Kenney, far right, and patrol leader Joe Saia '81 meet three new Boy Scouts in 1980. Br. Dwight formed Troop 86 with 40 boarders. Only half of them made it through the year, learning not just how to cope with the rigors of advancing from tenderfoot to scout by hiking, camping, and competing at the annual camporee, but how to develop their leadership skills and teamwork.

SHARING THE CHARISM

1979 125th Anniversary Celebration

1980 Computer lab set up

1981 Dining Hall Renovated

1986 First lay assistant prefects

1988 First lay head prefects
SSC Key Club established

1989 Math Club Begun

1990 Mu Alpha Theta at SSC
Magic Club started

1991 Addition to school building
Dr. Ryan, 1st lay principal
1st ACE hosted by SSC

1994 Student Ministry inaugurated
Smoking banned on campus
Diboll Plaza constructed

1995 Fellowship of Christian Athletes established on campus
New sand beach created

1996 Crosswalk over Beach Blvd.
Work on Diboll Memorial Walkway begun

Newer Means to Achieve Same Educational Goals

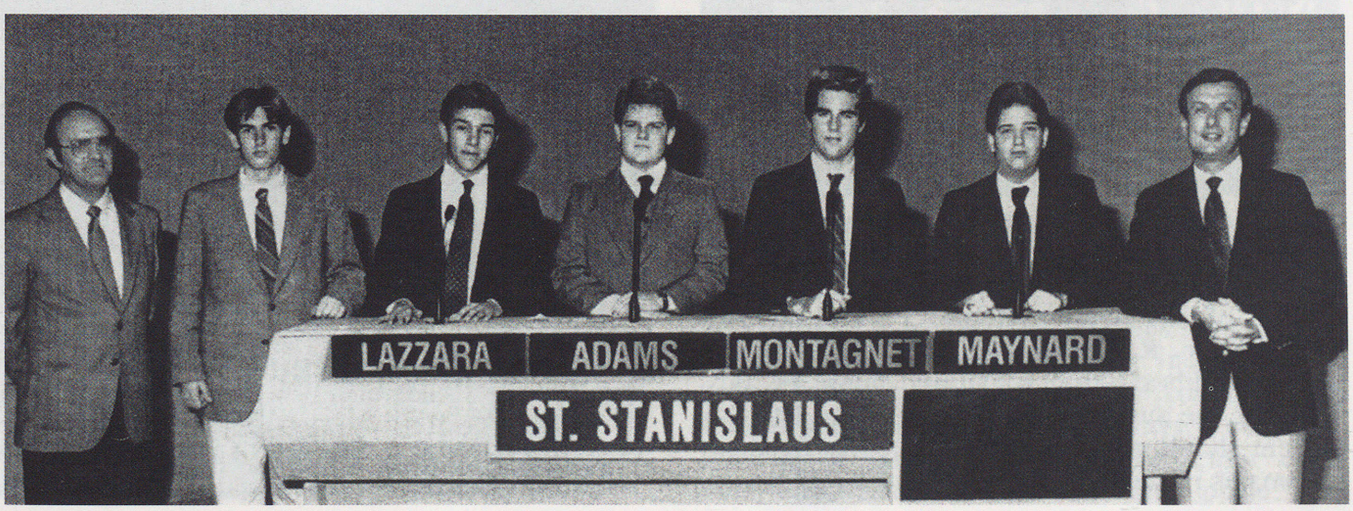
Throughout its history St. Stanislaus College has always taken full advantage of technology and new learning methods to achieve its educational goals which have not changed over the years--to teach students to think critically according to their abilities. Since 1923 the curriculum has remained that of a college preparatory high school, emphasizing the basics but introducing new electives in keeping with student needs and interests of the times. One of the most significant changes in the 1980s was the introduction of computers into the curriculum. Br. Eduardo Baldioceda set up the first computer lab at St. Stanislaus in 1980.

Also during the 1980s, the school used a computer data base to identify some 2,600 living alumni, with Louisiana having the highest number--more than 1,000. These alumni represented 37 states and several foreign countries. At reunions of these alumni, a favorite topic of conversation was always how much St. Stanislaus had changed since their time. The campus had been completely overhauled with buildings going up and coming down. And the faculty itself changed and expanded.

But one thing has never changed: the emphasis on academic excellence which SSC has always defined as doing one's best. Taking into account different learning styles and students with various learning disabilities, SSC developed in the '80s programs for academic assistance such as remedial reading programs, the study of English as a second language, as well as special one-on-one tutoring.

SSC Participates in Varsity Quiz Bowl Tournaments

After years of competing in the WYES Varsity Quiz Bowl competition, the 1986-87 Quiz Bowl team pictured below with faculty moderator Mr. Tom Ackerman on the left and master of ceremonies Mr. Dan Milham on the right, brought honors to the school by winning the Gulf Coast Scholars' Bowl Competition in a series of eight matches.



Smiling faces of SSC students gathered around their president and principal, Br. Paul Montero, in 1988 show their joy.



Campus Life in 1980s Spirit-filled

Br. Paul Montero, president and principal at SSC during the second half of the '80s, created a welcoming and friendly atmosphere on campus where students and faculty alike showed respect for all. Family spirit and school spirit, always important elements of the Brothers' charism, led the 570 to 600 SSC students to take part in and to support a wide variety of school activities in during the 1980s.

One highlight of the decade was the 22-18 Rock football victory over the #9-ranked Bay High Tigers in 1987, the first since 1980.

Students Enjoy Haunted House

Br. Raymond Sylve's haunted house on Halloween started as a special project with Dorm A in the 1980s. After weeks of preparation and practice, Br. Raymond and his dorm crew presented a haunted house that truly scared some and definitely fascinated all who took the guided tour. Its popularity grew so much that it became a highly anticipated annual event for more than 20 years, entertaining not just resident students but also youngsters of several of the local families. By popular demand, Br. Raymond converted the dungeon under the library into a haunted house in July 2002 for the summer campers. On the left two student ghouls provide thrills and chills for their classmates in the 1987 haunted house.





Varsity cheerleaders Chris Schmidt and Julie Rutherford exemplify the school spirit that characterized SSC in 1988.

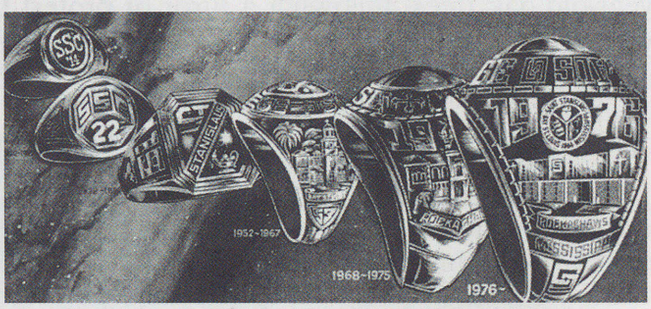
Rings Symbolize SSC Pride

Seniors of the class of '88 proudly display their rings in the photo below. Their rings, designed in 1976, feature a ruby stone set in gold, with the school building, shield, and year on one side and the Brothers' motto and escutcheon on the other with the year 1854.



In the school lobby hangs a large framed picture, shown below, of six SSC rings illustrating new ring designs in 1914, 1920, 1928, 1952, 1968, and 1976. The first rings were a cigar band type of gold ring engraved with the school initials and year on the face. Later, rings were decorated with the school name on the front, a rock-a-chaw on one side, and the year on the other. Gradually the senior ring became more elaborate, and students had several options. The 2003 ring is the same basic design as 1976, but seniors can choose rings in yellow or white gold or silver ultrium. Stones may be ruby or garnet, smooth or cut, with a sunburst or encrusted with the school letters on them.

There are plans for a special ring design for the sesquicentennial graduates of 2004.



While ring designs have changed over the past hundred years, the significance of the ring has not. That is why SSC graduates often pass their rings on to their senior sons and grandsons. Usually distributed early in the senior year after being blessed in the context of a special Mass, SSC rings have always symbolized the rite of passage, standing for senior class unity and leadership as well as school pride.

Dr. Ryan, First Lay Principal

Top: Dr. Michael Ryan
Bottom: Br. Paul Montero





In May 1991 Br. Paul Montero, president of St. Stanislaus with the approval of its Board of Directors, appointed its first lay principal--Dr. Michael Ryan, a 1968 graduate of SSC who had been on the faculty for ten years and who had served as assistant principal. Other administrative team members for the 1991-92 school year included Br. Joseph Donovan who returned to the role of Dean of Students, replacing Br. Noel Lemmon who had served in that position from 1986 to 1991; Mr. Andy Kivlan, Director of Guidance, and Mr. Jerry Spell, Director of Student Activities and Athletic Director. By 1991-92 only 14 of the 33 Brothers on campus were on the school faculty which included 38 lay persons on the professional staff.

Under the administrative team's leadership, the school's philosophy statement was updated to read: *"The specific charism of St. Stanislaus is to work not only with the highly motivated, self-directed students but also with the troubled, unmotivated, undisciplined student in a structured atmosphere of love, patience, and consistent discipline where forgiveness and a willingness to continue working with difficult students is evident."*

To help fulfill its mission statement, the administration hired a full-time school psychologist to help troubled students. It also established a campus ministry department with Mrs. J. P. Pike as chair to enhance the religious atmosphere of SSC. The previous year the Spiritual Life Development Team led by Br. Robert LeBlanc had begun work on a booklet for daily classroom prayer.

New Wing Added to Front of School, 1991

In 1989 the SSC Board of Directors approved an addition to the school containing six classrooms, a computer lecture-laboratory room, and a guidance complex at a cost of $675,000. Money came from a major fund raising campaign, plus $200,000 in interest from the school's endowment fund. The addition was located in front of the existing school building, extending approximately forty-five feet beyond it and raised on columns. The bottom floor was left free for a lovely driveway and covered entrance area to the school. Originally a site along the north side of the main school building was proposed, but plans were altered to avoid destroying two large 85-year-old oak trees, following a furor of protest that earned television coverage. The new building was designed by George Saunders, the same architect who created the 1971 school building. The new wing was completed in time for the 1991-92 school session and dedicated November 3, 1991.



SSC Board of Directors Develops Gradually

The SSC Board of Directors has undergone significant growth since its establishment in 1986 when the Provincial Council determined that the school should have a board of directors separate from the house council for the Brothers' community at St. Stanislaus. From 1986 to 1991, the Brothers at St. Stanislaus elected six to eight of its members who were active in the school to serve as a board of directors to advise the president. The first board elected, that of the 1986-87 school year, included Brs. Eduardo Baldioceda, Joseph Donovan, Aquin Gauthier, Dwight Kenney, Albert Ledet, William Leimbach, Noel Lemmon, and Paul Montero. Other Brothers at SSC who served on the board between 1986-91 include Brs. Mark Thornton, John Hotstream, and Marcel Riviere.

In 1989 the SSC Board began studying the possibility of having the Provincial Council name its members, including Brothers not stationed at St. Stanislaus as well as laymen. That in fact happened in 1991 after all province entities incorporated. For 1991-92, the Provincial Council named two laymen to the SSC Board: Messrs. Joseph Monti '70 and James Smith '45; and four Brothers not at SSC: Brs. Francis David, Dwight Kenney, Ivy LeBlanc, and Ronald Talbot. The only Brother at SSC on the board was its president, Br. Paul Montero.

The SSC Board of Directors had grown from a group of local Brothers that advised the president to a more deliberative board of broad representation, including lay persons, empowered to hire the principal and set school policy.



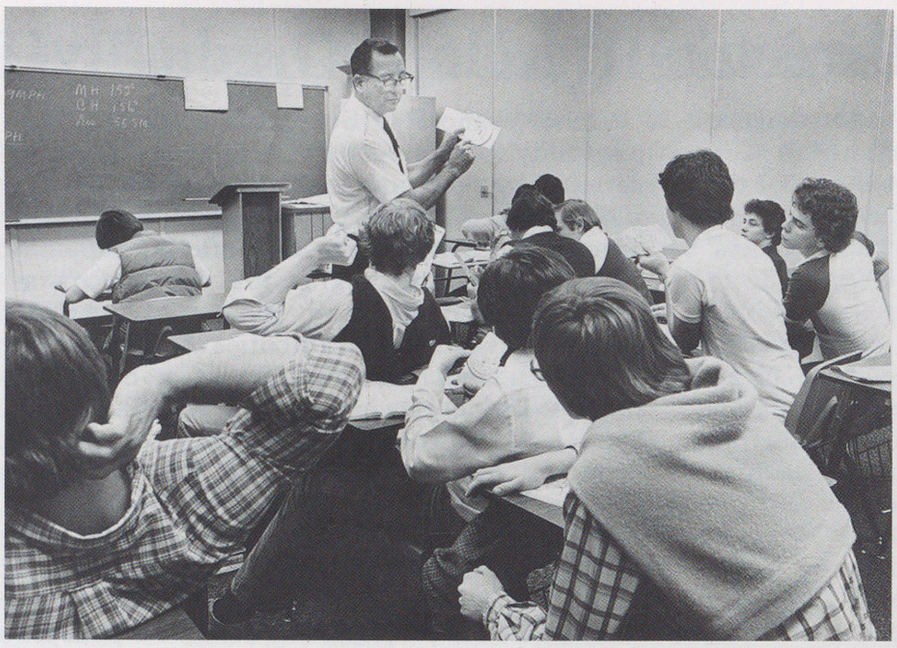


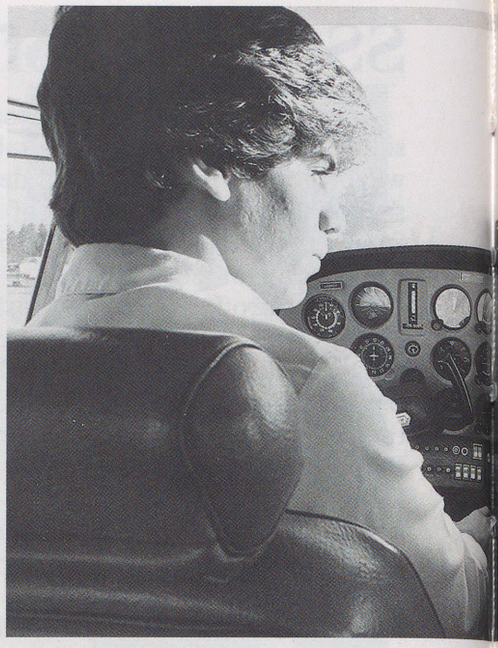
140th Anniversary

Diboll Plaza & Sesqui Dig

For its 140th anniversary in 1994, SSC constructed the Diboll Heritage Plaza in the back school yard under the shade of several large oak trees that grace the campus. A gift of the Collins Cerre Diboll Foundation, the plaza honors Mr. Collins Diboll, architect of the 1903 buildings. The photo above shows the plaza with the cornerstone of the 1903 school on display. In the background is the Diboll Memorial Walkway from the school to the dining room.

Also, as part of the anniversary celebrations, the school initiated an archaeological dig, called the Sesqui Project, with plans to continue it until the 150th anniversary in 2004. The excavation was started by 100 seniors in April of 1994 on the site of the old Back School.





Br. Noel Marks 35 Years at SSC in '93

Teacher, prefect, camp director, dean of discipline, assistant principal, director of transportation, director of buildings and grounds, bus driver, aviator--all of these titles fit Br. Noel Lemmon, who in 1993-94 celebrated 35 years of ministry at St. Stanislaus, many of them as director of Camp Stanislaus during the summer months.

Still active in 2003 as director of transportation, Br. Noel retired as camp director in the fall of 1998 after serving in that role for 30 years since restarting the summer camp in 1969.

Photos above, taken in 1981 for the Gulfport *Sun Herald,* show Br. Noel describing the use of a flight computer to students in his aviation class and checking the Cessana's controls with student aviator, Steve Loupe '82, before take-off. Members of the Skyhawks, a club started by Br. Noel shortly after he began teaching aviation in 1975, not only learned to fly but worked to obtain an FAA pilot's license. *"Everything is beautiful and in perfect order when I am flying,"* said Br. Noel. Such was not always the case when he served as an assistant principal in charge of discipline from 1986 to 1991.

In 1996 Br. Noel was inducted into the St. Stanislaus Hall of Fame. Previously he had been named STAR teacher nine times at SSC and once for the entire state. The camp character cup is named in his honor.



Br. Noel prays in the chapel with one of his senior religion classes in 1982 during an early morning Mass.

Camp Celebrates 60th Session



In 1993 Camp Stanislaus celebrated its 60th session since 1928, and its 25th year since reopening in 1969 after being closed for six summers.

Billed as an academic-fun camp in 1993, the six-week session for boys ages 9-14 offered two hours of enrichment work in math, English, reading, and computers. The remainder of the day was spent in activities such as skiing, sailing, riflery, swimming, ceramics, computing, canoeing, skating, go-carts, fishing, horseback riding and archery. Campers also took part in mystery trips, visits to Ship Island, picnics at the mud slides, and flying.













Campers were divided into four groups of 40 to 45 each, according to age and size, with names such as Shrimps, Dolphins, Stingrays, and Sharks. Br. Noel Lemmon, director since 1969, was assisted in supervising the 180 young boys by a staff of 70-75, usually consisting of about 12 Brothers, 6 teachers, 3 or 4 coaches, 24 college-age counsellors, 16 high school counselors-in-training, and 12 support staff, including nurses around-the-clock as well as cooks to provide three hot meals a day.

Eleven Brothers worked with Br. Noel at camp for more than 25 years: Brs. Ramon Daunis, Lee Barker, Paul Mulligan, Eduardo Baldioceda, Raymond Sylve, Leon Stock, Pierre St. Pierre, Neri Falgout, Joseph Donovan, Albert Ledet, and Loyola Mattingly.

With so many water sports, the ratio of campers to counselors never exceeded four to one. To facilitate water skiing in the Jourdan River, the Camp Stanislaus Board of Directors bought property at Shoreline Park in 1974 and built a ski lodge on the river. For beachfront and water activities, campers had access to a 1,000-foot pier extending from the front of the campus into the bay. The present pier was constructed in 1986 by the Camp at a cost of $75,000, following several tropical storms in 1985.

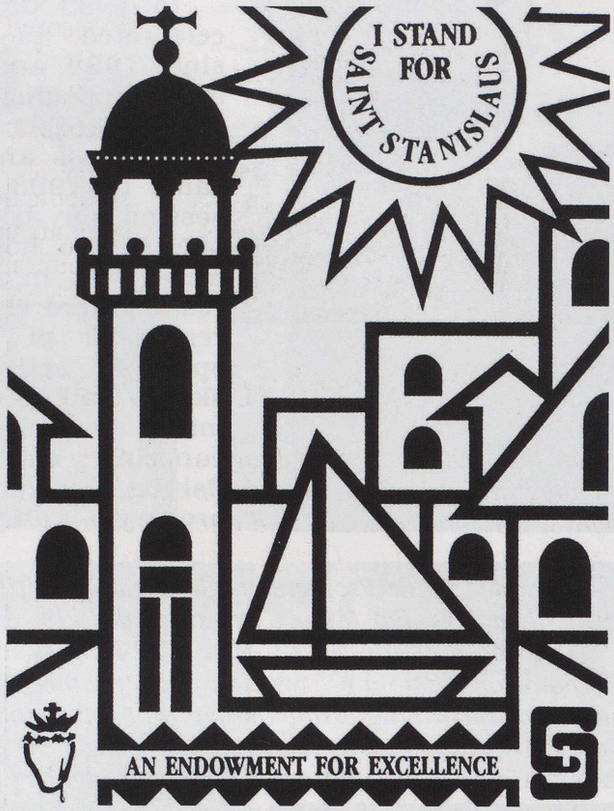
In 1999 Mr. Ted Schmidt '79 took over as camp director and carried on its traditions of excellence. Mr. Jeff Aycock '89, led the camp in 2001 before turning the reins over to Mr. Mike Reso, who split the camp into two sessions, accepted day campers, and introduced several other popular innovations.

Endowment for Excellence Campaign

From its earliest history, St. Stanislaus provided tuition assistance to help needy students. This tradition continued through two world wars, severe depressions, and economic recessions. With an increase in lay faculty coupled with the need to pay fair salaries, the SSC administration was challenged to find means to provide for the needs of students and the development of the school.

The Endowment for Excellence Campaign, launched in September 1991 with Mr. James E. Smith '45 as its chairman, raised funds to help with tuition assistance, construction, and renovation. Ninety-five volunteers worked the three-year campaign, the first at SSC in 25 years.

In 1992 Mr. Jack Kent, father of Jack Jr. who graduated from SSC in 1983 as class valedictorian, boosted the Endowment for Excellence Campaign with a pledge of $500,000. In June 1994 campaign chairman Mr. Smith wrote SSC friends and alumni thanking them for the success of Phase I of the campaign which ended with gifts and pledges exceeding $2.5 million. He noted that *"the school's facilities and programs have been significantly increased and improved, and a fund for future expansion and enhancement created."*



Trust Donated To Help Needy

Mr. James A. Ware, who graduated from St. Stanislaus College in 1926, donated $378,000 in 1996 to establish a trust fund in his name as an endowment to help students in financial need attend St. Stanislaus.

"Mr. Ware has made history at SSC by establishing the first such charitable remainder annuity for the benefit of the students," said Br. Donnan Berry, president of SSC. *"His philanthropy will reach into the new century."*

Ware grew up in the Belle Grove plantation in Louisiana, served in the Marines in WW II, and then became a salesman. After retiring from Southern Radio Supply Co. in 1976, he settled in Hammond, La., where he celebrated his 90th birthday in 1996.



23 Grads Serve on Faculty in 10 Years

SSC alumni serving on the 1992-93 faculty and staff included the following men pictured above. From the left, they are: Mr. Rory Rafferty '73, Mr. Joe Gex '88, Br. John Hotstream '55, Dr. Mike Ryan '68, Mr. Chuck Genin '75, and Mr. Mike Gemelli '69. Not pictured is Br. Ramon Daunis '47.

During the next ten years, another 16 SSC grads served on the school or dorm faculty. The 2002-03 faculty included eight grads in addition to Genin, Gemelli, and Daunis: Scott Pfaff '88, Mark Logan '86, Casey Wittmann '84, Freddy West '91; Steve Bradley '91, Vince Moran '95, Frank Kerbl '94, and Greg Gordy '98.

In the interim since 1993, eight other grads served at their alma mater full time: Doug Gleber '86; Craig Sweeney '89, Steve Cuevas '88, Sonny Schlindler '95, Matt Richmond '90, Bernard Sy '93, Tedd Schmidt '79, and Jeff Aycock '89.



ACE Attracts 624 in '97

The seventh annual Academic Competition for Excellence sponsored by St. Stanislaus College in 1997 attracted 624 students in Grades 5-7 from 54 South Mississippi Schools.

Participating students took 50-minute exams in mathematics, science, English, or social studies. Since the exams were prepared, administered, and corrected by members of the SSC faculty, students from SSC were not eligible. Among the competitors, 46 students were awarded first, second, and third place honors as well as honorable mention.

Coach Jay Ladner, left, helps a student prepare for ACE.

SSC Progression Corporation Provides for Future

In the 1990s, the SSC Progression Corporation founded in 1967 by Br. Roland Smith, then president of SSC, reorganized and established a board of directors. Br. Aquin, Development Director since 1971, managed the Progression Corporation until 1993 when Mrs. Pat Modenbach succeeded him.

The Board of Directors for the SSC Progression Corporation set up a progression fund "for the sole purpose of providing a safe and vibrant future for St. Stanislaus." Yearly donations from the Progression Corporation to the operation budget of St. Stanislaus fund the tuition assistance program, while also bolstering academic improvements and salaries of the faculty and staff. Such donations grew from $153,866 in 1993-94 to $792,524 in 1995-96, according to published annual reports.

In addition to providing financial assistance for tuition, teacher salaries, and academic needs, the Progression Corporation also took over the management of major campaigns designed to raise funds necessary for new construction as well as the renovation of facilities. Besides the capital campaigns, the Progression Corporation has sponsored several yearly fund-raising events such as Chappy's Gourmet Dinners and Silent Auctions started in '91, Golf Tournaments since '90, and $10,000 Drawdown Parties begun in '85, as well as annual alumni and parent appeals.

In 1996 the Progression Board established an annual SSC Founders Society with more than 100 charter members who donated $1,000 that year. Also, the Board recognized 14 donors who had contributed $100,000 to SSC, and declared them perpetual members of the Founders Society.

By 1998 St. Stanislaus had 12 endowed scholarship funds. Five of these were named in honor of Brothers, living and dead, who served many years at SSC: Brs. Bennet Bishop, Joseph Donovan, Lee Barker, Mark Thornton, and Romuald Robitaille.



Stock Market Team Places 2nd in State

In 1995 the St. Stanislaus sophomore team placed second in the state in the Stock Market Game sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council. Team members, pictured on the left, included Ty McMichael, seated; and standing left to right, captain Michael Mancuso, Joey Niolet, Mark Modenbach, Robbie Morrison, and faculty moderator Mr. Mike Gemelli, STAR Teacher for 1995 and math department chairman.

The team placed ninth in the four state area of Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Gex Summarizes 25 Years of SSC Sports

Sportswriter for *The Sea Coast Echo,* Joe Gex '88, has summarized SSC athletics from 1978 to 2003:

Golf began at SSC in 1972 when Coach Ron Engel had it until 1978. Then it was restarted in 1988 under the direction of Coach Chuck Genin, SSC '75. The Rocks took division titles from 1993 to 1996 and from 1998 to 2001, placing as state runner-up in 1995 and finishing in the top ten every year since. Some top linksters for SSC include Andy Jacobsen, Bo Miller, Mitch Montelaro, Heathe Warner, Ashley Cox, Chris Genin, Ed Flores, Kenny Jones, Ryan Rupp, and John Carr.

Sailing started at SSC in 1991 under the direction of alumnus Rory Rafferty. In 1992 the team placed 5th in the nation at the Mallory Cup competition at West Point. Then in 1996 at Annapolis, the Rocks took 4th in the nation after winning southeastern honors. Some of the top sailors include Eugene Schmitt, Owen Peneguy, Gilly Chamberlain, Kevin Northrup, Sanders Kane, Allen Uram, John Dane, and David Taylor.

Track and field, a consistent winner at SSC, took the division title in 1988, the school's first in any sport. SSC has won divisional titles every year from 1988 to 2001 except in 1994 when the Rocks were disqualified from the final event due to a lane violation which cost them the divisional title by one point. In 1990 SSC took the South State title and finished 3rd in the state.

SSC individuals who won state titles include Jeff Battle in discus '89; Brian Brooks in the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m runs in '91, setting state records in the last two events; Chris Reisch setting state records in the 100m and 200m dashes in '90; Vince Moran in high jump in '92,'93, and '95; Clay Williams in high jump in '96; Andy Brown in 300m hurtles in '97; Gary Maitland in high jump in '98. Vince Moran, 1995 All-American, set a state high jump record of 7' which still stands. Assisted by Coach Andy Kivlan, Coach Larry Ramsey, track and field coach from 1988 to 1995, was one of the most successful coaches ever at SSC.

Baseball picked up at SSC in the '80s under Coach Fred Weems. In 1982 Joe Gex, the last SSC grad to sign with a major college, began a five-year catching career with Ole Miss Rebels. Sean, Mark, and Brian Logan were all outstanding hitters for the Rocks, each batting over .300 for their careers. The title goes to Jay Artigues, however, whose single season batting average of .535 in 1987 still stands.

Cedric Smith, one of the most dominating pitchers in the school's history, led the Coast in strike-outs from 1989-90. Bryce Gex set a single season hitting streak record in 1993 by hitting safely in 17 straight games.

Other standouts include Rocky Rhodes, Joe Lee, Scott Heitzman, Casey Wittmann, Greg Schruff, Correy Gex, Brandon Arcement, Jason Santiago, Chris Darling, Mickey Quinlan, Eric Knight, and Johnny Rutherford.

Basketball at SSC since 1980 has been nothing short of stellar. Chuck Genin '75 coached the Rocks to the state playoffs during the 1989-90 season behind the play of Shannon Garret, Greg Schruff, and Cedric Smith. In 1992 Coach Jay Ladner took over.

Under Coach Ladner's mentoring, the Rocks won division titles in '95, '96, '00, and '02. They have made the state playoffs from 1994 through 1996 and from 1999 through 2002. SSC made the Elite 8 in 1999 and the Final 4 in 2002. Terry Lawyer, a 6'9" center in 1996, made All-State and was selected to the Mississippi State All Star team. He signed to play college ball with Mississippi State. In 2001, Grady Willis became the first SSC player chosen for the prestigious Mississippi-Alabama All Star game. Willis started and led his team with 12 points.

Some of the other top basketball stars during the past 25 years include Jason Santiago, Brandon Arcement, Matt Kopfler, Vince Moran, Brandon Benoit, Ryan Harrell, Michael Lee, Junior Davis, Zeke Davis, Correy Gex, Kelton Thompson, Louis Schruff, Brian Thigpen, Gabe Willis, Darius Acker, and Cheick Sanankoua.

Football suffered through hard times during the past 25 years, but continued to produce some outstanding players. The 1980 team had six players sign scholarships after a 7-3-1 season: Lee Klein with USM; Juan Betanzo with LSU; Dave Boos, Mark Lichtenstein, George Corcoran, and Joby Church with PRCC.

In 1982 when the MHSAA went to a state playoff system with divisions and classes based on location and enrolment, SSC chose to become independent in football until 1989.

In 1987 the Rocks defeated the #9 ranked Bay High Tigers 22-18 for the first time since 1980 in one of the Rocks' biggest upsets against Bay High. In 1986 the Tigers had routed SSC 52-0.

Shannon Garrett '90 went on to play football with the Canadian League, winning All-Pro honors in Canada. In 1990 the 8-4 Rocks made their first trip ever to the state playoffs under head coach Ken Lyons. The Rocks started that season with a 18-15 triple overtime win against Pass Christian and ended with a 13-6 loss to South Pike in the state playoffs.

In 1996 Corey Charles rushed for 1,352 yards. From 1997 to 2001, Coach Dave Kenson led the Rocks to three winning seasons and a return to the state playoffs in 1998. Tight end Stephen Peterman at 6'5" and 270 lbs. was the Rock's most decorated player: All-District three years and All-State his senior year. As one of the top ten players in the state, he was selected for the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star game, and he signed with LSU in 1999.

Jason Santiago, a four-year starter, passed for 4,700 yards; and Kris Cannon set a new season and career rushing record at SSC--1,619 yards for the 1999 season and 4,300 in his four years at SSC. Cameron Byrne set an unofficial state record for the most career tackles: 501. In 2001 Gabe Willis set the season record receiving with 886 yards on 57 catches; in 2002 his rushing helped put Coach Casey Wittmann's Rocks in the state play-offs.

Cross county hit the scene running in 1989 under the direction of Coach Eddie Burgo. In 1991 the Rocks reached the summit with the Class 4A State Championship. Ever since the Rocks have placed in the top ten in state, taking Divisionfrom '92 to '95 and 2nd in State in '93, '94, and '02. All-State runners for SSC include Scott Black, Chris Kehoe, Drew Scafidi, Alejandro Alvarez, Mike Mancuso, Scott Esher, Josh Perello, Matt Tusa, Gilly Chamberlain, Kyle Lewis, Kody Cannon, and Allen Leone.



State Championship Cross Country Team, 1991-92

Kneeling: Myers Namie, Gilly Chamberlain, Scott Marechal, David Heitzmann; *Standing:* Chris Kehoe, Bryan Carter, Drew Scafide, Alejandro Alvarez, Jimmy Williams, Frank Kerbl, Neil Heitzmann, Michael Hargett, and Coach Eddie Burgo.

First SSC State Championship Soccer Team, 1995-96

Front: Ben Guy, Fernando Jimenez; *second row:* Coach Tim Burns, Brandon Everett, A.J. Pace, Chris Gennin, Ronnie Vanney, Patricio Ramirez, Jason Reiben, Chad Ourso, Aubrey Galindo, Kyle Kidd, Charlie Smythe (manager), Kyle Edrington (manager); *third row:* Kile Foster, Louis Barocio, Casey Swanson, Mark Gagnon, Robbie Morrison, Dusty Carver, Justin Wadsworth, Nick Middleton, Ross Pitcairn, Casey Heitzmann, Brad Cannon; *fourth row:* Billy Powell, Clint Edrington, Ty McMichael, John Ourso, Roger Ridgeway, Brian McDonald, Jonathan Gagnon, Ryan Hall, Phillippe Michel, Jeremy Compretta, and Leo Laurent.



Soccer Team Takes State Title Twice

Always popular at SSC among the foreign students, soccer got its official start in 1978 under Coach Ron Engel. In 1982 the sport was dropped for lack of competition within the state. In 1987 after the state sanctioned soccer, Coach Mick Quinlan took the reigns. The Rocks have dominated the soccer scene since 1991, qualifying for the state playoffs every year since and winning eight Division titles between 1992 and 2002. In 1996 and 1997 under Coach Tim Burns, SSC captured the State title. Coach Andy Kivlan took over in 1998.

In 1992-93 Konstantin Koloskov set a season record of 52 goals. Brad Cannon holds the career record of 100. They and two other SSC grads, Beau Schindler and Nick Middleton, starred in college soccer. All-State players include Stephen Kulikowski, Peter Doty, Neil Favre, David Heaps, Kyle Lewis, Brennan Brooks, Jimmy Strickland, Jeffrey Hansell, A. J. Pace, and Bryce Breland. Most of the above, plus Casey Swanson and Rimmer Covington, played in MS All-Star games. In 2002 Kulikowski and Doty were named All-Americans.

SSC ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

1988	Track wins first of 13 Division titles: 1988 to 1993 and 1995 to 2001 Tennis wins first of 6 Division titles: 1988; 1993 and 1998 to 2001
1991	Cross County wins State Championship
1992	Cross County wins Division: 1992 to 1995 Soccer wins 1st of 8 Division titles: 1992 to 1994, 1996 to1997, 1999, 2001 to 2002 Sailing finishes 5th in Nation
1993	Golf wins first of 9 Division titles: 1993 to 1996 and 1998 to 2002 Cross Country 2nd in State, also 1994, 2002
1994	Sailing hosts Baker Cup National
1995	SSC wins MHSAA Sportsmanship Award Golf finishes 2nd in State Basketball wins Division, 1st time since 1945; also in 1996, 2000, 2002
1996	Soccer wins State Title, also in 1997 Sailing, 4th in Nation Swimming Gulf Coast Champs, also in 1998
1998	Tennis wins State Championship, also 1999; State runner-up, 2001
2002	Soccer wins South State Championship Cross County wins Division, 2nd in State



Basketball Team Honors Br. Anton Sokira

The 1999-2000 team dedicated its divisional championship game to Br. Anton, center with the victory trophy. Br. Anton, teacher and basketball coach at SSC for 23 years, died of cancer March 15, 2000, at the age of 55.

Sandy Beach Enhances SSC Bay Front

The sandy beach, created in front of SSC in October 1995 when Hancock County pumped it in, provides an ideal setting for beach volleyball, bonfires, and other fun activities for SSC students and campers. Safe access to the new beach was facilitated by an elevated crosswalk over South Beach Blvd. The William A. Bryan Memorial Overpass, on the right, was completed in 1996.



Started in 1997 by Mrs. Susan Estrade, Activities Director at the time, the annual SSC Back-to-School Beach Bash has been a smashing success. Usually about 250 resident and day students participate in the weekend of fun events, such as the volleyball game pictured on the right.

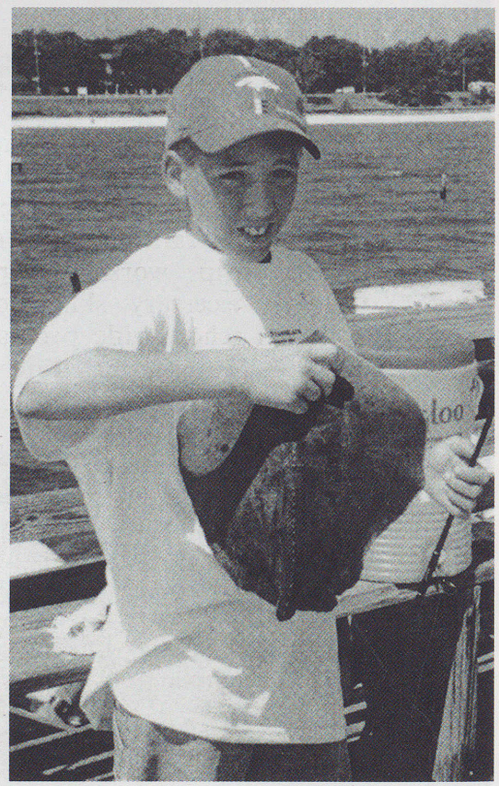


Another popular activity has been the annual Br. Aubert Fishing Rodeo started in 1986 by the Student Council. A worried looking seventh grader, Zach Delaney '04, bottom right, holds up a large stingray that he caught from the pier in 1998 during the 13th annual rodeo.

Parents Form 12 Booster Clubs

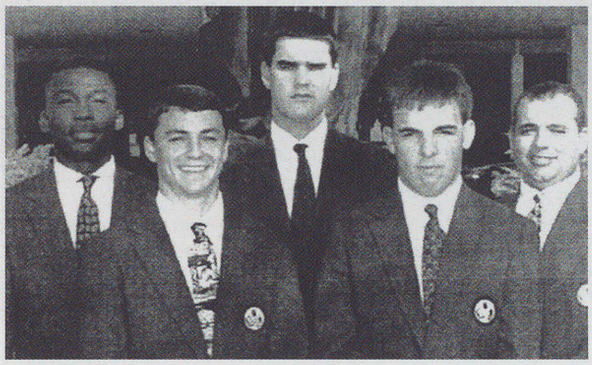
In 1993 shortly after the demise of the Sideline Club, SSC parents formed ten booster clubs for athletics, as well as the Treblemakers for the band and the Cheers for the cheerleaders. The SSC parent booster clubs were quite creative in their names, relating them to sport or activity: the Diamond Club, the Gridiron Club, the Kicker Club, the Hardwood Club, the 19th Hole Club, the Road Runners, the Piranhas, the Supreme Court Club, the Sailors' Club, and the Spike Shoe Club. Parents paid $5 dues for each booster club membership. More importantly, they worked at the gates, sold concessions, and took part in a wide variety of fund-raising activities to help support their sons' activities at SSC.

Six years later during the 1999-2000 school year, the SSC administration consolidated all athletic booster clubs into the Rock-A-Chaw Athletic Booster Club for better coordination of events and assurance of a more even distribution of funds for all sports. Since 2000, this booster club has sponsored as its major fund-raising event the $10,000 Fall Drawdown, a fun-filled dance and party.



Putting Faith into action, Student Council president Wes Pugh and vice-president Kippy Chamberlain distributed 34 Thanksgiving baskets of food goods collected in homerooms at SSC in 1994.





Faculty Participates In *Sharing the Faith*

Under the guidance of Br. Adrian Gaudin, campus minister from 1994 to 1997, the SSC faculty committed itself to a two-year "Sharing the Faith" program beginning in 1995. Designed by the National Catholic Educational Association, the program consisted of six sessions each year to facilitate faith formation. The goal was to deepen the spirituality of faculty members and to assist them in articulating God's presence in their personal lives and in the school community.

The first session focused on God's call to all faculty members and their response to teach and minister at St. Stanislaus in accord with the history and mission of the school. Br. Adrian brought in many resources persons to help with the sessions, and the faculty response was overwhelmingly positive.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

In 1995 Coach Stan Dellenger organized the SSC local chapter of the national organization Fellowship of Christian Athletes. About 45 to 50 Rock-A-Chaws work with poor families annually at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter to help them enjoy the holidays. First officers of the FCA in 1995, shown on the left, were Correy Charles, secretary; Jerry Polk, co-captain; Correy Gex, captain; David Thomas, treasurer; and Marc Mortimer, recruiter.

Student Ministry Program Started in '94

Br. Adrian Gaudin, Campus Minister at SSC in 1994, started preparing student ministers as part of the overall campus ministry program. By means of regular training sessions and an overnight leadership workshop, participating seniors learned necessary skills so that they could assist with school-wide programs such as retreats, liturigies, and prayer services.



Charter members of the student ministry program in 1994-95 pictured below left include: (front) Ashley Cox, Jeep Mestayer, and Anthony Tran; (middle) Mrs. Renee Hamm, Jody Montelaro, Cris Carville, and Br. Adrian Gaudin; (back) Mr. Mike Schultz, Brooks Quinlan, and Michael Deris. Since the 1994 pilot program with seven seniors, the number of student ministers has grown to include 24 juniors and seniors in 2003.

Students who have taken on the responsibility of serving their fellow students as ministers have found that the program has enhanced their personal, emotional, and spiritual awareness through opportunities for service as well as for support and faith sharing. This formation development in Christian leadership, which is very much in keeping with the charism of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, is integral part of SSC's mission and ministry.

New Leaders Prepare SSC for Millennium

Br. Donnan Berry, president of SSC in 1996, announced major changes in the school's leadership team beginning for the 1996-97 session. As newly named principal, Br. Ronald Talbot teamed up with Br. Ronald Hingle, newly appointed dean of discipline, and existing administrative team members Mrs. Susan Estrade and Mr. Fred Cherota. Together they immediately began plans for launching the school into the fast approaching new millennium.

One goal of Br. Ronald and his team was to maintain class sizes of about 25 while keeping the rising costs of tuition, then over $11,000 for residents and right at $3,000 for day students, under control while finding funds to pay employees competitive salaries.

A primary goal articulated by Br. Ronald Talbot was to *"try to have a curriculum that meets the diverse needs of the students."* As the largest Catholic boys' boarding in the country, SSC had a diverse population of 350 day students and 280 resident students in grades 6-12, coming from several different countries and cultures. Br. Ronald added courses such as Related Studies and English as a Second Language to the curriculum for the international students. New courses were added to the curriculum in the area of technology and fine arts. Also, SSC instituted an honors program for all grades and established homogeneous grouping for all regular courses. With these changes in place, Br. Ronald and his team hoped to continue fulfilling the dream of SSC since 1854: *"to educate happy, self-confident young men who will take their place in society as men of character."*

NEW MILLENNIUM

1997	SSC Founders Society started Elevator in memory of Philip & Nancy Ourso installed
1998	New phone, Internet system WWW@ststan.com website Brothers' residence renovated 1st Senior Leadership Breakfast Students wear school uniforms Student parking lot doubled Honors program introduced Strategic Planning Committee
1999	Christmas Caroling in the Plaza Ted Schmidt, 1st lay Camp Director New computer lab Phone, Internet access in dorm
2000	Dolores Richmond, 1st woman as Admissions Director Advanced Placement courses Dorm E becomes Honor Dorm
2001	Capital Campaign for Character Faculty, Staff Recognition Faculty Formation Endowment
2002	Fitness Center constructed 1st Social Justice Day of Service
2003	Mass of Thanksgiving for start of Sesquicentennial, Sept. 6
2004	Sesquicentennial Gala, May 8

SSC Promotes 96 Eighth Graders to High School in 1997

Every year in May, St. Stanislaus graduates about 100 Eighth Graders as well as about 85 seniors. Usually the Eighth Grade promotion, a simple but formal ceremony, takes place in the Br. Alexis Resource Center.

Pictured on the right at the 1997 promotion, eighth grader Nick Benvenutti '01, accepts his certificate from Br. Ronald Talbot, SSC principal. Administrative team members Br. Ronald Hingle and Mr. Fred Cherota assist in the distribution.

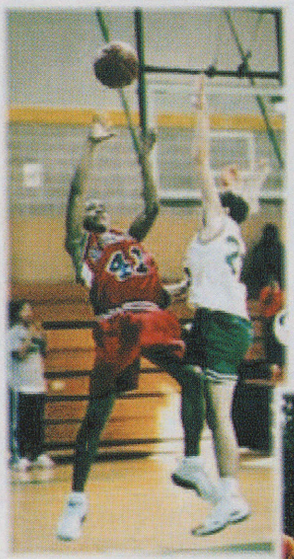


Daily Webpages Present SSC to World

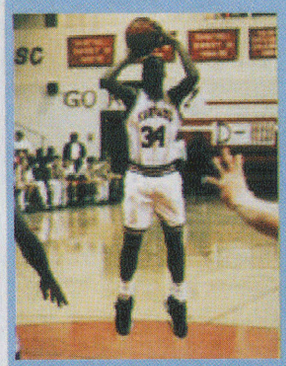
In 1998 SSC computer science instructor Mr. Bill Jennings put SSC on the world wide web at ststan.com. The website under the direction of Br. Charles Schilling since 1999 has expanded to include many features of SSC, including daily news with colorful photos, weekly cafeteria menus, daily homework assignments, monthly calendars of events, as well as a plethora of information about the school and camp. For example, the page below, printed from the school's website, introduces thousands of viewers to SSC's athletic and extracurricular programs.

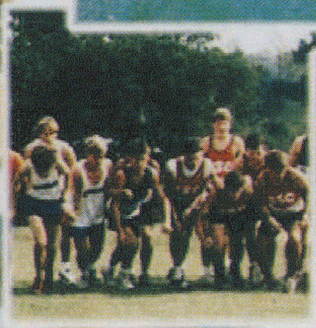
MISSION TRADITION ACADEMICS ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS RESIDENCY PROGRAM ADMISSIONS NEWS

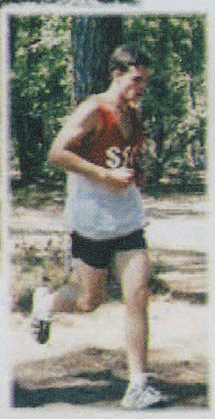
ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS







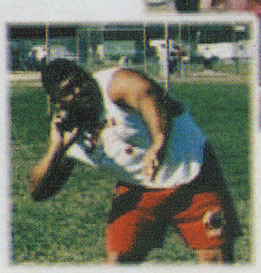














Being a Saint Stanislaus athlete is a challenge. We learn how to work as a team, and we also learn how to be disciplined in everything we do. SSC's coaches teach us about winning traditions at SSC. We work hard to keep those traditions alive."

Zeke Davis '00

Saint Stanislaus provides all of its students a complete education with opportunities for participation and leadership in a wide variety of extracurricular and athletic activities. Ten different sports, several service organizations, student publications, music and drama activities, an intramural program, and honor societies offer students the opportunity to explore personal interests and to develop their individual talents.

Two Brs. Ronald Stress Technology

Many changes took place at SSC in 1998. Br. Ronald Talbot took over as president and Br. Ronald Hingle replaced him as principal. The two Brothers Ronald worked together to further advance St. Stanislaus and its faculty, especially in the areas of technology and faculty formation.

With a new phone system that allowed more than 50 extensions and a T-1 internet line, all teachers and prefects had access to voice mail and e-mail. Now parents anywhere, including those of international students, could communicate with them much easier. Every classroom had internet capabilities to enhance learning possibilities. Following the lead of Br. Ronald Hingle, several teachers became experts in preparing PowerPoint presentations.

Students and parents were able to check the St. Stanislaus website of find homework assignments that teachers posted daily. Using MacSchool, teachers began to record grades electronically according to new e-Class rosters. In-service workshops at school helped teachers learn the new technology to facilitate their teaching. In 1999 SSC hired its first technology coordinator and set up a second computer lab.

Br. Ronald Hingle, left, and Br. Ronald Talbot, right, congratulate Craig Kleinpeter '04, recipient of the Resident Student Conduct Award at the 2000 Eighth Grade promotion ceremony.



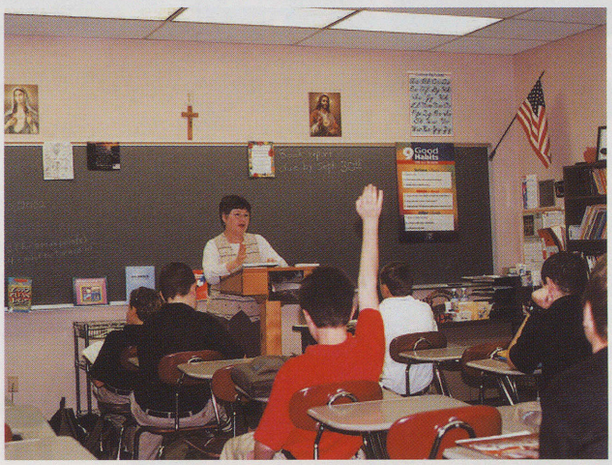


Mrs. Susan Estrade, the first woman on the administrative team, poses with seven principals that she has worked with at SSC. From the left are Brs. Celestine Algero, Paul Montero, Eldon Crifasi, Ronald Talbot, Lee Barker, Ronald Hingle, and Paul Mulligan. Susan also served with her brother Dr. Michael Ryan when he was principal.

More Day Students Drive to School; Parking Lot Doubled

Mr. Fred Cherota, supervisor, watches as kaki-clad day students sporting a variety of color-coordinated shirts and hauling heavy bookbags cross Bookter Street on their way to classes in 2002. The student parking lot was doubled in size in 1998, the same year that SSC required uniforms.





Formation Endowment Fund

With $75,000 donated by the Delta Foundation in December 2001, SSC established the Faculty Formation Endowment Fund for the spiritual and personal advancement of its faculty. With such a fund, SSC faculty members have been able to apply for and receive grants for advanced studies in religious education and pastoral ministry, for participation in programs sponsored by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to teach their charism, and for the pursuit of advanced training and graduate degrees. The fund also helps finance the Faculty and Staff Recognition Program.

Recognition Evenings Honor Faculty, Staff

Begun in 2001, the annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Evening honored employees with 5, 10, 15, and 20+ years of service. With plenty of food and drink as well as a lot of good music, the faculty and staff relaxed together with their spouses and dates while celebrating their shared ministry at SSC.

Mrs. Mary Jo Barr, science teacher, was nominated by her fellow faculty members in 2001 as the faculty who best embodied to an extraordinary degree the educational charism of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. She was honored with a special award and monetary gift. Mrs. Mary Dillenkoffer, reading teacher pictured above, received the honor in 2002.

Lay faculty and staff members who have been recognized at the ceremonies for serving at SSC for 20 years or more as of 2003 include:
Mr. Jerry Spell, coach and p. e. teacher, 20 years;
Mr. Tom Ackerman, language teacher, 20 years;
Mr. Dale Moran, social studies teacher, 20 years.
Mrs. Virginia Gex, librarian, 21 years;
Mr. Alphonse Benoit, maintenance staff, 22 years;
Mrs. Laurin LaFontaine, finance office, 22 years;
Mrs. Joyce Whavers, maintenance staff, 23 years;
Mr. Mike Gemelli, math teacher, 24 years;
Mrs. Susan Hoda, finance office, 26 years;
Mrs. Susan Estrade, assistant principal, 27 years;
Mrs. Aline Beal, dining room worker, 36 years; and
Mr. James Thriffiley, science teacher, 37 years.

Speakers Inspire, Motivate

Seniors Enjoy Leadership Breakfasts

Bishop Thomas Rodi inspired the SSC Class of 2002 at the fourth annual Senior Leadership Breakfast in the school mall early in the 2001-02 school year. Pictured in the photo below, Bishop Rodi, challenged seniors to be leaders first of all of themselves in a spirit of integrity.

Each year since 1998, the school has invited renowned speakers, such as Danny Abramowicz in 2000, to inspire and motivate the senior class.

Also invited to the special breakfasts each year are ten to twelve outstanding leaders and role models in the community, especially graduates of SSC. They are all introduced to the seniors during the course of a hearty meal.

In the photos below, 2002-03 Student Council president Uchenna Aduba from Nigeria, center, welcomed the participants and Rev. Dennis Carver '70, right, led the group in prayer.



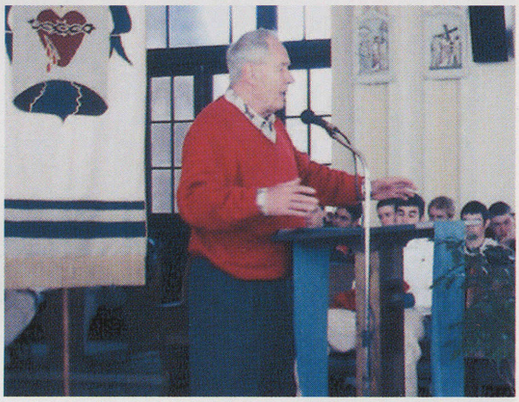




Ambrose Addresses Students

Dr. Stephen Ambrose, noted historian and author who lived a short distance from the school down the beach on South Beach Blvd., addressed the SSC students in various social classes several times before his death in 2002.

Students in 2001 especially enjoyed hearing Dr. Ambrose, right, talk about his work with Steven Spielberg in producing the film *Saving Private Ryan.* Praising the present generation of teenagers as smarter and more fit than his own, Dr. Ambrose challenged SSC students to lead their country in restoring its natural resources.



Students Earn College Credit, Honors Diplomas

Select SSC students participated in an honors program leading to an honors diploma since 1998-99, but very serious students wanted even more. So in August of 2000, SSC offered an expanded Advanced Placement program in math, science, and English. Within a very short time, the program proven itself highly successful, thanks in large part to a highly skilled faculty.

Success of the Advanced Placement program can be judged by the fact that 78% of the SSC students who took the A. P. exams in 2002 earned scores that qualified them to receive credit for their SSC courses at most universities and colleges. Among those students were Jesse Brown '03 in biology; Robert Morell '02 in Calculus; Nathan Sison '03, David Beckner '03, and Rodrigo Sevilla '02 in computer science; juniors Ben Benvenutti , Jesse Brown , Paul Burnett, Trey Treutel, Ryan DeLaune, Scott Hillandbrand, Zach Mellen, and Nathan Sison in English III; two seniors in English IV: Robert Morell and Sebastian Nievas; and three seniors in Spanish: Robert Morell, Sebastian Nievas, and James Wilkerson.

Teachers in the 2002-03 A.P. program included Mrs. Renee Hamm and Mr. Stephen Flannery, English; Mr. Mike Gemelli, calculus; Br. Eduardo Baldioceda, computer science; Mr. Tom Ackerman, Spanish; and Mrs. Anne Schade, physics.

Below: Seniors Randy Piglia '02 and Mark Pelleteri '02 worked with students at Bishop Perrry Elementary School in New Orleans during their day of service.

Bottom: Collage of photos taken during the first annual Social Justice Day of Service



First SSC Social Justice Day of Service to Needy

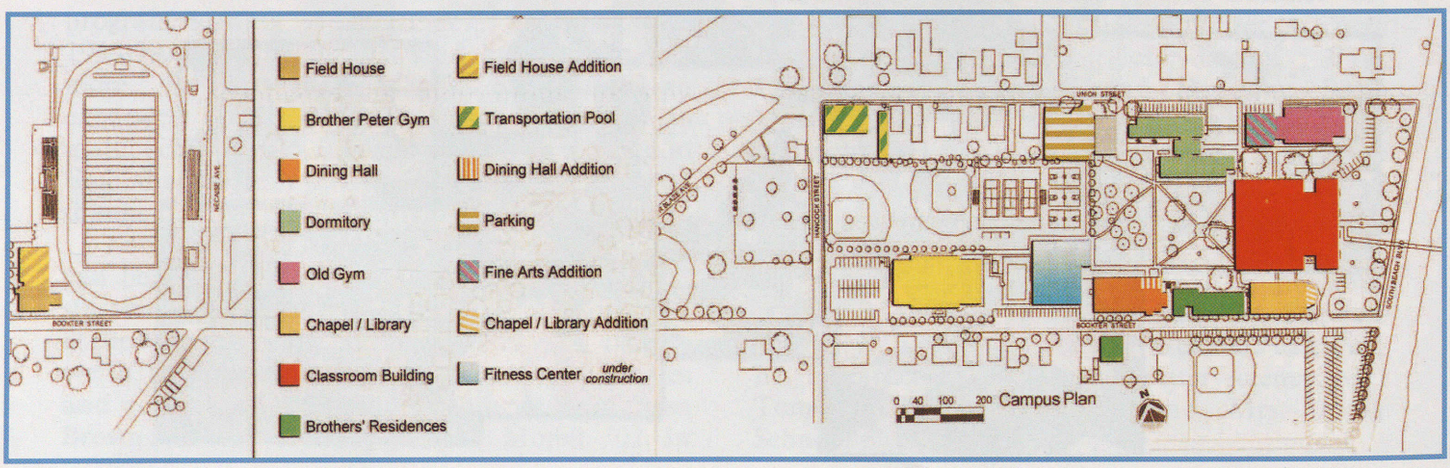
On February 28, 2002, the SSC faith community participated in the school's first annual Social Justice Day of Service. Working within their regularly established prayer groups, faculty and students traveled to agencies throughout the Gulf Coast and metropolitan New Orleans to work as volunteers for a day.

The special day began with an assembly in which Mr. Ken France '82, who joined the SSC faculty in November 2002 as Social Justice Coordinator, spoke of his service experiences in the Peace Corps and other volunteer groups. Groups then traveled by bus to their service sites which included shelters, preschools, nursing homes, veterans' homes, and facilities for the handicapped.

All groups returned to school at the end of the day for a closing prayer service. Students overwhelmingly expressed positive reactions to the day of service which helped them to put their faith into action. The day's experience not only made faculty and students much more aware of the plight of the underprivileged, the sick, the poor, the young, and the elderly, it also helped them realize that they can and should do something concrete to improve situations--not so much as charity but as a matter of social justice.



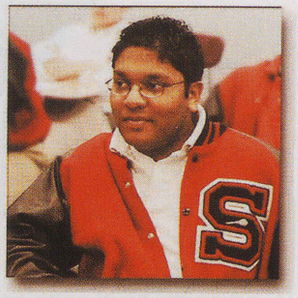
Aerial view of the SSC campus above taken in October 2002 by John D. Thomas, photographer, shows the setting for a campus plan printed below in a development brochure published by St. Stanislaus in 2001 for its building campaign.

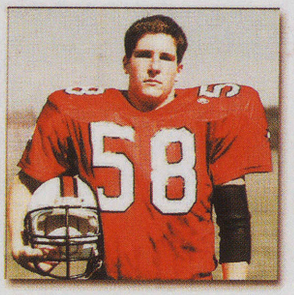


Students Tell the Story In their Own Words . . .

"Over the last five years, Saint Stanislaus has taught me not only how to be a good student, but also has prepared me for the challenges that lie ahead."

Kunal Patel '03
Diamondhead, Mississippi



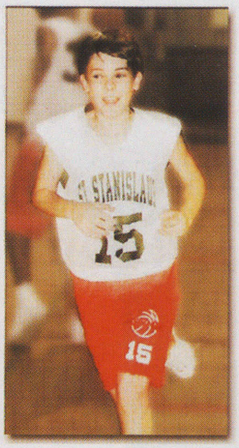


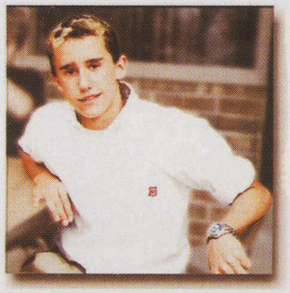
"I have had 4-1/2 great years at Saint Stanislaus. SSC has greatly changed my life, I have learned the importance of education and the importance of being respectful to all of those that I meet."

B. J. Ledet '02
Avondale, Louisiana

"I will leave Saint Stanislaus as a well-rounded person because of all of the different opportunities for involvement."

Brad Reinhart '06
Diamondhead, Mississippi





"I have grown spiritually and my grades have risen since I have come to Saint Stanislaus. As a boarder, I have met kids from over 18 different countries and have been exposed to many different cultures."

Carlyn Perez '06
Braithwaite, Louisiana



Fitness Center Ceremony

Bishop Joseph Howze blessed the site for the new SSC fitness center in May 2001. Pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony on the right are Student Council president Brennan Brooks '02; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Treutel '76; Mr. Joe Monti '70; Mr. John Ritten; Bishop Howze; Br. Ivy Leblanc, provincial of the Brothers; Br. Ronald Talbot, SSC president; BSL mayor Eddie Favre '72; and Mr. Jay Ladner, SSC Athletic Director.

Campaign: *Building a Future of Character*

Always striving to advance its mission to offer quality Catholic education and formation through excellent programs taught in first-class facilities, in May 2001 SSC kicked off a major capital campaign. Entitled Building a Future of Character, the campaign's goal was set at $10.3m in order to increase tuition assistance by $1m and to renovate or construct new recreational, academic, and chapel facilities. Phase I called for $6.3m to equip a state-of-the-art computer lab, new tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts, and a new two-story 10,000 square-foot fitness center containing coaches' offices, a well-equipped weight room, an auxiliary gym, locker rooms, and classrooms.

Other phases of the long-range ambitious building program will address the needs for a new band and choral room, a fine arts building with an auditorium, an expanded library, a refurbished chapel, a new athletic field house, additional classrooms, and an improved faculty work area. All of these needs were identified and set in order of priority in a 10-year master plan designed by a Strategic Planning Committee based upon results of surveys of brothers, faculty, parents, alumni, and students.

The parents, alumni, friends, and leaders at SSC have created a compelling vision and are dedicated to transforming their dreams into reality to continue a 150-year-old tradition.

Sunrise over Bay St. Louis as seen from the balcony of the St. Stanislaus chapel



Acknowledgments and Sources

In grateful appreciation for the help and support received from Br. Donnan Berry and Br. Ronald Talbot, presidents of SSC; Mr. Joe Gex, sportswriter for *The Sea Coast Echo*; the New Orleans Province archives; the Hancock County Historical Society, and the Hancock County Library; Br. Charles Schilling, SSC publications director; Br. Ray Hebert, proofreader; Mr. John D. Thomas, aerial photographer; and Mr. Ben Allen of Taylor Publishers.

Most of the information and photos in this publication came from the SSC archives: school catalogs, ledger books, yearbooks, student newspapers, newsletters, dairies, journals, scrapbooks, and brochures.

Br. Xavier Werneth, Editor
January, 2003


AMEMVS QVOR